



**Convention on the Elimination  
of All Forms of Discrimination  
against Women**

Distr.: General  
1 May 2000

Original: English

**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination  
against Women**  
**Twenty-third session**  
**12 June-30 June 2000**

**Provisional agenda**

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Report of the Chairperson on activities undertaken between the twenty-second and twenty-third sessions of the Committee.
4. Consideration of the reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
5. Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
6. Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee.
7. Provisional agenda for the twenty-fourth session.
8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its twenty-third session.

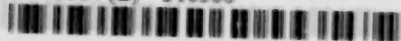
**Annotations**

**Item 1. Opening of the session**

The twenty-third session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women will be opened by the representative of the Secretary-General.

**Item 2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work**

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure provides that the agenda shall be adopted by the Committee at the beginning of its meetings. Rule 5 provides that the provisional agenda for each session shall be prepared by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairperson, in conformity with the relevant provisions of articles 17 to 22 of the Convention, giving priority to items the inclusion of which was decided at a previous session of the Committee.



At its twenty-second session the Committee approved the provisional agenda for its twenty-third session.

The Committee has, since its sixth session, set up two standing working groups, namely Working Group I, to consider and suggest ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee, and Working Group II, to consider ways and means of implementing article 21 of the Convention. At its seventh session, the Committee decided to keep the membership of the working groups flexible. At its eleventh session, the Committee decided that the working groups should be open only to members of the Committee, in accordance with past practice. The specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations that could make substantive contributions to questions under consideration could be invited by the working group to contribute to its deliberations.

The proposed organization of work for the twenty-third session is shown in the annex to the present document.

#### **Documentation**

Provisional agenda (CEDAW/C/2000/II/1)

#### **Item 3. Report of the Chairperson on activities undertaken between the twenty-second and twenty-third sessions of the Committee**

The Committee, at its twelfth session, decided to include an item that would permit the Chairperson to brief the Committee on activities and events occurring since the previous session that had a bearing on the Committee's work.

#### **Item 4. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**

Article 18 of the Convention provides that States parties to the Convention shall undertake to submit to the Secretary-General, for consideration by the Committee, a report on the legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures that they have adopted to give effect to the provisions of the Convention and other progress made in this respect. Reports are to be submitted within one year after the entry into force of the Convention for the State concerned and thereafter at least every four years and further whenever the Committee so requests.

At its twenty-second session, the Committee, taking into account the criteria of preference to be given to those States parties whose reports had been pending for the longest time, the need to give priority to initial reports and the desirability of balance of reports in terms of geographic and other factors, decided to invite eight States parties to present their reports. Seven States parties agreed to that request.

At its twenty-third session, the Committee will have before it the following reports: the initial report of Cameroon (CEDAW/C/CMR/1); the initial and second reports of Lithuania (CEDAW/C/LTU/1) and (CEDAW/C/LTU/2); the initial report of the Republic of Moldova (CEDAW/C/MDA/1); the combined second and third periodic report of Iraq (CEDAW/C/IRQ/2-3); the combined third and fourth, and fifth periodic reports of Austria (CEDAW/C/AUT/3-4) and (CEDAW/C/AUT/5); the fourth periodic report of Cuba (CEDAW/C/CUB/4); and the combined fourth and fifth periodic report of Romania (CEDAW/C/ROM/4-5).

Rule 49 of the rules of procedure provides that representatives of a State party shall be present at meetings of the Committee when the report of the State is being examined and shall participate in discussions and answer questions concerning the reports. The Secretary-General has informed the States parties concerned of the tentative dates on which their reports are scheduled for consideration by the Committee at its twenty-third session.

Rule 47 of the rules of procedure provides that at each session the Secretary-General shall notify the Committee of non-receipt of any report required from a State party under article 18 of the Convention. The Secretary-General also provides the Committee with a list of reports submitted by States parties to the Convention that have not yet been considered by the Committee. The Committee, at its twenty-third session, will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the submission of the reports by States parties under article 18 of the Convention (CEDAW/C/2000/II/2).

The Committee decided at its ninth session that a pre-session working group should be convened before each session to prepare a list of issues and questions relating to periodic reports for transmission to the representatives of States parties before the meetings at which their reports were to be considered. At its nineteenth session the Committee decided that the pre-session working group would meet at the end of the session prior to which second and subsequent reports would be considered. The pre-session working group for the twenty-third session met in New York, from 7 to 11 February 2000.

#### **Documentation**

- Initial report of Cameroon (CEDAW/C/CMR/1)
- Initial report of the Republic of Moldova (CEDAW/C/MDA/1)
- Initial and second reports of Lithuania (CEDAW/C/LTU/1) and (CEDAW/C/LTU/2)
- Combined second and third periodic report of Iraq (CEDAW/C/IRQ/2-3)
- Combined third and fourth and fifth periodic reports of Austria (CEDAW/C/AUT/3-4) and (CEDAW/C/AUT/5)
- Fourth periodic report of Cuba (CEDAW/C/CUB/4)
- Combined fourth and fifth periodic report of Romania (CEDAW/C/ROM/4-5)

#### **Report of the pre-session working group**

- CEDAW/PSWG/2000/II/CRP.1
- CEDAW/PSWG/2000/II/CRP.1/Add.1 (Austria)
- CEDAW/PSWG/2000/II/CRP.1/Add.2 (Cuba)
- CEDAW/PSWG/2000/II/CRP.1/Add.3 (Iraq)
- CEDAW/PSWG/2000/I/CRP.1/Add.4 (Romania)

**Responses to list of issues**

- CEDAW/PSWG/2000/II/CRP.2 (Austria)
- CEDAW/PSWG/2000/II/CRP.2/Add.1 (Cuba)
- CEDAW/PSWG/2000/II/CRP.2/Add.2 (Iraq)
- CEDAW/PSWG/2000/II/CRP.2/Add.3 (Romania)

**Item 5. Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**

Article 21 of the Convention provides that the Committee may make suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of the reports and information received from States parties. It also provides that such suggestions and general recommendations shall be included in the report of the Committee together with comments, if any, from States parties. Rule 48 of the rules of procedure provides that those suggestions and general recommendations shall be communicated by the Committee, through the Secretary-General, to the States parties for their comments.

At its tenth session, the Committee decided to provide, under the agenda item entitled "Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women", opportunities for specialists from the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies to present to the Committee, in plenary, information related to specific articles of the Convention or to issues being considered for general recommendations and suggestions.

At the same session, the Committee decided to select and review specific articles and other issues to be considered at subsequent sessions as a long-term programme, without prejudice to any changes that might be necessary as a result of new developments and priorities arising from the review of the reports of States parties.

Article 22 of the Convention provides that the specialized agencies shall be entitled to be represented during the consideration of the implementation of such provisions of the Convention as fall within the scope of their activities and that the Committee may invite the specialized agencies to submit reports on the implementation of the Convention in those areas. At its twenty-third session, the Committee will have before it a note by the Secretary-General on reports of specialized agencies on that subject (CEDAW/C/2000/II/3 and addenda).

**Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General on reports of the specialized agencies on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities (CEDAW/C/2000/II/3)

Report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (CEDAW/C/2000/II/3/Add.1)

Report of the World Health Organization (CEDAW/C/2000/II/3/Add.2)

Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (CEDAW/C/2000/II/3/Add.3)

Report of the International Labour Organization (CEDAW/C/2000/II/3/Add.4)

**Item 6. Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee**

At its twelfth session, the Committee decided that the Secretariat should prepare every year, as a pre-session document, a report on ways and means of improving the work of the Committee, containing information provided by the Secretariat, comments made by members of the Committee or developments elsewhere in the human rights regime. In view of the fact that the Committee has been authorized to hold two sessions annually, the Secretariat has decided to provide the Committee with a report on ways and means at each session (CEDAW/C/2000/II/4).

At its twenty-second session, the Committee decided to continue the consideration of its rules of procedure at its twenty-third session, based on a working paper integrating discussions that took place during the twenty-first and twenty-second sessions and proposals and amendments made by the Committee members. That working paper is contained in document CEDAW/C/2000/I/WP.1.

At its twenty-second session the Committee designated one of its members to prepare a working paper on proposed procedures with regard to the Optional Protocol to the Convention. The working paper is contained in document CEDAW/C/2000/II/WP.2.

**D Documentation**

Report of the Secretariat on ways and means of improving the work of the Committee (CEDAW/C/2000/II/4)

Draft rules of procedure (CEDAW/C/1997/WG.I/WP.1)

Proposals on draft rules of procedure (CEDAW/C/2000/I/WG.I/WP.1)

Report on the optional protocol to the Convention (CEDAW/C/2000/II/WP.2)

**Item 7. Provisional agenda for the twenty-fourth session**

At its tenth session, the Committee decided that the draft provisional agenda for the following session of the Committee would be approved at the end of each session.

**D Documentation**

Draft provisional agenda for the twenty-fourth session of the Committee.

**Item 8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its twenty-third session**

## Annex

## Proposed organization of work

## Monday, 12 June 2000

## 446th meeting

10 a.m.

Item 1

Opening of the session

Item 2

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Item 3

Report of the Chairperson on activities undertaken between the twenty-second and twenty-third sessions of the Committee

Item 5

Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: introductory statement

Item 6

Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee: introductory statement

3 p.m.

(Closed meeting)

Items 5 and 6

Working Group of the Whole: composition of Working Groups I and II and issues for discussion

## Tuesday, 13 June 2000

10-11.30 a.m.

(Closed meeting)

Informal meeting with United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies

11.30-1 p.m.

(Closed meeting)

Items 5 and 6

Working Group of the Whole

3-4.30 p.m.

Informal meeting with non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

4.30-6 p.m.

(Closed meeting)

Items 5 and 6

Working Group of the Whole

## Wednesday, 14 June 2000

## 447th meeting

10-10.30 a.m.

(Closed meeting)

Item 4

Consideration of reports submitted by States parties combined, second and third periodic report (CEDAW/C/IRQ/2-3)

10.30-11.30 a.m.

Introduction by State party's representative

11.30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Questions by experts and dialogue with the Committee

## 448th meeting

3 p.m.

Item 4

Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (*continued*) Iraq, combined second and third periodic report (CEDAW/C/IRQ/2-3)

(Closed meeting)

Item 4

Working Group of the Whole

**Thursday, 15 June 2000****449th meeting**

10-10.30 a.m.  
(Closed meeting)

*Items 5 and 6* Consideration of reports submitted by States parties  
Austria, combined third and fourth periodic report  
(CEDAW/C/AUT/3-4) and fifth periodic report  
(CEDAW/C/AUT/5)

10.30-11.30 a.m.

Introduction by the representative of the State party

11.30-1 p.m.

Questions by experts and dialogue with the Committee

**450th meeting**

3 p.m.

*Item 4* Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (*continued*)  
Austria, combined third and fourth periodic report  
(CEDAW/C/AUT/3-4), and fifth periodic report  
(CEDAW/C/AUT/5)

(Closed meeting)

*Items 5 and 6* Working Group of the Whole

**Friday, 16 June 2000****451st meeting**

10-10.30 a.m.  
(Closed meeting)

*Item 4* Consideration of reports submitted by States parties  
Lithuania, initial and second reports (CEDAW/C/LTU/1  
and CEDAW/C/LTU/2)

10.30-11.15 a.m.

Introduction by the representative of the State party

11.15-1 p.m.

Questions by experts and dialogue with the Committee

**452nd meeting**

3 p.m.

*Item 4* Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (*continued*)  
Lithuania, initial and second reports (CEDAW/C/LTU/1 and  
CEDAW/C/LTU/2)

(Closed meeting)

*Items 5 and 6* Working Group of the Whole

**Monday, 19 June 2000****453rd meeting**

10-10.30 a.m.  
(Closed meeting)

*Item 4* Consideration of reports submitted by States parties  
Cuba, fourth report (CEDAW/C/CUB/4)

10.30-11.30 a.m.

Introduction by the representative of the State party

11.30-1 p.m.

Questions by experts and dialogue with the Committee

**454th meeting**

3 p.m.

*Item 4*Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (*continued*)  
Cuba, fourth report (CEDAW/C/CUB/4)

(Closed meeting)

*Items 5 and 6*

Working Group of the Whole

**Tuesday, 20 June 2000****455th meeting**

10-10.30 a.m.

*Item 4*Consideration of reports submitted by States parties  
Cameroon, initial report (CEDAW/C/CMR/1)

(Closed meeting)

10.30-11.30 a.m.

Introduction by the representative of the State party

11.30-1 p.m.

Questions by experts and dialogue with the Committee

**456th meeting**

3 p.m.

*Item 4*Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (*continued*)  
Cameroon, initial report (CEDAW/C/CMR/1)

(Closed meeting)

*Items 5 and 6*

Working Group of the Whole

**Wednesday, 21 June 2000****457th meeting**

10-10.30 a.m.

*Item 4*Consideration of the reports submitted by States parties  
(*continued*)

(Closed meeting)

Republic of Moldova, initial report (CEDAW/C/MDA/1)

10.30-11.30 a.m.

Introduction by the representative of the State party

11.30-1 p.m.

Questions by experts and dialogue with the Committee

**458th meeting**

3 p.m.

*Item 4*Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (*continued*)  
Republic of Moldova, initial report (CEDAW/C/MDA/1)

(Closed meeting)

*Items 5 and 6*

Working Group of the Whole

**Thursday, 22 June 2000****459th meeting**

10 a.m.

*Item 4*Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (*continued*)  
Replies (Lithuania)

(Closed meeting)

*Item 4*

Working Group of the Whole

3 p.m.

*Item 4*

Working Group of the Whole

(Closed meeting)

**Friday, 23 June 2000****460th meeting**

10-10.30 a.m.  
(Closed meeting)

*Item 4*

Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (*continued*)  
Romania, combined fourth and fifth periodic report  
(CEDAW/C/ROM/4-5)

10.30-11.30 a.m.

Introduction by the representative of the State party

11.30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Questions by the experts and dialogue with the Committee

**461st meeting**

3 p.m.

*Item 4*

Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (*continued*)  
Romania, combined fourth and fifth periodic report  
(CEDAW/C/ROM/4-5)

(Closed meeting)

*Items 5 and 6*

Working Group of the Whole

**Monday, 26 June 2000****462nd meeting**

10 a.m.

*Item 4*

Consideration of reports submitted by States parties  
Replies (Cameroon)

3 p.m.

*Item 4*

Working Group of the Whole

(Closed meeting)

*Item 4*

Working Group of the Whole

**Tuesday, 27 June 2000****463rd meeting**

10 a.m.

*Item 4*

Consideration of reports submitted by States parties  
Replies (Republic of Moldova)

(Closed meeting)

*Item 4*

Working Group of the Whole

3 p.m.

*Item 4*

Working Group of the Whole

(Closed meeting)

**Wednesday, 28 June 2000**

10 a.m.

*Item 4*

Working Group of the Whole

(Closed meeting)

3 p.m.

*Item 4*

Working Group of the Whole

(Closed meeting)

**Thursday, 29 June 2000**

10 a.m.

*Item 4*

Working Group of the Whole

(Closed meeting)

3 p.m.

*Item 4*

Working Group of the Whole

(Closed meeting)

**Friday, 30 June 2000**

10 a.m.  
(Closed meeting)

*Item 4* Working Group of the Whole

**464th meeting**

3 p.m.

*Items 5 and 6* Adoption of the reports of Working Groups I and II

*Item 7* Draft provisional agenda for the twenty-fourth session

*Item 8* Adoption of the report of the Committee on its twenty-third session

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**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination  
against Women**

**Twenty-third session**

12-30 June 2000

**Corrigendum**

**Annex**

1. For 446th meeting, read 467th meeting.
  2. Renumber all subsequent meetings accordingly, ending with the 485th meeting on Friday, 30 June 2000.
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**Committee on the Elimination of  
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**Twenty-third session**

**12-30 June 2000**

**Item 4 of the provisional agenda\***

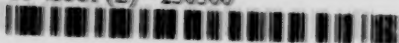
**Consideration of reports submitted by States parties  
under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination  
of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**

**Status of submission of reports by States parties under  
article 18 of the Convention**

**Report of the Secretary-General**

1. Article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women provides that States parties shall undertake to submit to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, for consideration by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, a report on the legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures that they have adopted to give effect to the provisions of the Convention and on the progress made in that respect. Reports are to be submitted within one year after the entry into force of the Convention for the State concerned and thereafter at least every four years, and further whenever the Committee so requests.
2. Rule 47 of the rules of procedure of the Committee provides that, at each session, the Secretary-General shall notify the Committee of the non-receipt of any report required from a State party under article 18 of the Convention. Annex I to the present report lists the States parties whose reports were overdue at 1 May 2000.
3. Annex II lists the reports submitted by States parties up to 1 May 2000 that have not yet been considered by the Committee.

\* CEDAW/C/2000/II/1.



## Annex I

**States parties whose reports are due and have not yet been  
submitted to the Committee on the Elimination of  
Discrimination against Women**

## A. Initial reports

| <i>State party</i>             | <i>Date due</i>   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Albania .....                  | 10 June 1995      |
| Andorra .....                  | 14 February 1998  |
| Angola .....                   | 17 October 1987   |
| Bahamas .....                  | 5 November 1994   |
| Benin .....                    | 11 April 1993     |
| Bhutan .....                   | 30 September 1982 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina .....   | 1 October 1994    |
| Botswana .....                 | 12 September 1997 |
| Brazil .....                   | 2 March 1985      |
| Burundi .....                  | 7 February 1993   |
| Cambodia .....                 | 14 November 1993  |
| Cape Verde .....               | 3 September 1982  |
| Central African Republic ..... | 21 July 1992      |
| Chad .....                     | 9 July 1996       |
| Comoros .....                  | 30 November 1995  |
| Congo .....                    | 25 August 1983    |
| Costa Rica .....               | 4 May 1987        |
| Côte d'Ivoire .....            | 17 January 1997   |
| Djibouti .....                 | 2 January 2000    |
| Dominica .....                 | 3 September 1982  |
| Eritrea .....                  | 5 October 1996    |
| Estonia .....                  | 20 November 1992  |
| Gambia .....                   | 16 May 1994       |
| Grenada .....                  | 29 September 1991 |
| Guinea .....                   | 8 September 1983  |
| Guinea-Bissau .....            | 22 September 1986 |
| Haiti .....                    | 3 September 1982  |
| Kuwait .....                   | 2 October 1995    |

| <i>State party</i>                             | <i>Date due</i>   |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Lao People's Democratic Republic .....         | 13 September 1982 |
| Latvia.....                                    | 14 May 1993       |
| Lebanon.....                                   | 21 May 1998       |
| Lesotho.....                                   | 21 September 1996 |
| Liberia .....                                  | 16 August 1985    |
| Malaysia .....                                 | 4 August 1996     |
| Malta.....                                     | 7 April 1992      |
| Mozambique .....                               | 16 May 1998       |
| Pakistan .....                                 | 11 May 1997       |
| Papua New Guinea.....                          | 11 February 1996  |
| Saint Kitts and Nevis .....                    | 25 May 1986       |
| Saint Lucia.....                               | 7 November 1983   |
| Samoa .....                                    | 25 October 1993   |
| Seychelles.....                                | 4 June 1993       |
| Sierra Leone.....                              | 11 December 1989  |
| Suriname.....                                  | 31 March 1994     |
| Switzerland.....                               | 26 April 1998     |
| Tajikistan .....                               | 25 October 1994   |
| The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia..... | 17 February 1995  |
| Togo.....                                      | 26 October 1984   |
| Trinidad and Tobago .....                      | 11 February 1991  |
| Turkmenistan .....                             | 31 May 1998       |
| Vanuatu.....                                   | 8 October 1996    |

## **B. Second periodic reports**

|                              |                   |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Albania .....                | 10 June 1999      |
| Angola.....                  | 17 October 1991   |
| Bahamas .....                | 5 November 1998   |
| Benin .....                  | 11 April 1997     |
| Bhutan .....                 | 30 September 1986 |
| Bolivia .....                | 8 July 1995       |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina ..... | 1 October 1998    |
| Brazil .....                 | 2 March 1989      |

| <i>State party</i>                    | <i>Date due</i>   |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Burundi.....                          | 7 February 1997   |
| Cambodia.....                         | 14 November 1997  |
| Cameroon.....                         | 22 September 1999 |
| Cape Verde.....                       | 3 September 1986  |
| Central African Republic.....         | 21 July 1997      |
| Comoros.....                          | 30 November 1999  |
| Congo.....                            | 25 August 1987    |
| Costa Rica.....                       | 4 May 1991        |
| Croatia.....                          | 9 October 1997    |
| Dominica.....                         | 3 September 1986  |
| Estonia.....                          | 20 November 1996  |
| Gabon.....                            | 20 February 1988  |
| Gambia.....                           | 16 May 1998       |
| Georgia.....                          | 25 November 1999  |
| Grenada.....                          | 29 September 1995 |
| Guinea.....                           | 8 September 1987  |
| Guinea-Bissau.....                    | 22 September 1990 |
| Haiti.....                            | 3 September 1986  |
| India.....                            | 8 August 1999     |
| Kuwait.....                           | 2 October 1999    |
| Lao People's Democratic Republic..... | 13 September 1986 |
| Latvia.....                           | 14 May 1997       |
| Liberia.....                          | 16 August 1989    |
| Madagascar.....                       | 16 April 1994     |
| Malawi.....                           | 11 April 1992     |
| Maldives.....                         | 1 July 1998       |
| Mali.....                             | 10 October 1990   |
| Malta.....                            | 7 April 1996      |
| Namibia.....                          | 23 December 1997  |
| Nepal.....                            | 22 May 1996       |
| Papua New Guinea.....                 | 11 February 2000  |
| Republic of Moldova.....              | 31 July 1999      |
| Saint Kitts and Nevis.....            | 25 May 1990       |
| Saint Lucia.....                      | 7 November 1987   |

| <i>State party</i>                              | <i>Date due</i>  |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Samoa .....                                     | 25 October 1997  |
| Seychelles .....                                | 4 June 1997      |
| Sierra Leone .....                              | 11 December 1993 |
| Slovakia .....                                  | 27 June 1998     |
| Suriname .....                                  | 31 March 1998    |
| Tajikistan .....                                | 25 October 1998  |
| The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia ..... | 17 February 1999 |
| Togo .....                                      | 26 October 1988  |
| Trinidad and Tobago .....                       | 11 February 1995 |
| Zimbabwe .....                                  | 12 June 1996     |

### **C. Third periodic reports**

|                                        |                   |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Angola .....                           | 17 October 1995   |
| Belize .....                           | 15 June 1999      |
| Bhutan .....                           | 30 September 1990 |
| Bolivia .....                          | 7 July 1999       |
| Brazil .....                           | 2 March 1993      |
| Cape Verde .....                       | 3 September 1990  |
| Congo .....                            | 25 August 1991    |
| Costa Rica .....                       | 4 May 1995        |
| Cyprus .....                           | 22 August 1994    |
| Dominica .....                         | 3 September 1990  |
| El Salvador .....                      | 18 September 1990 |
| Gabon .....                            | 20 February 1992  |
| Ghana .....                            | 1 February 1995   |
| Grenada .....                          | 29 September 1999 |
| Guatemala .....                        | 11 September 1991 |
| Guinea .....                           | 8 September 1991  |
| Guinea-Bissau .....                    | 22 September 1994 |
| Guyana .....                           | 3 September 1990  |
| Haiti .....                            | 3 September 1990  |
| Lao People's Democratic Republic ..... | 13 September 1990 |
| Liberia .....                          | 16 August 1993    |

| <i>State party</i>          | <i>Date due</i>  |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Libyan Arab Jamahiriya..... | 15 June 1998     |
| Madagascar.....             | 16 April 1998    |
| Malawi.....                 | 11 April 1996    |
| Mali.....                   | 10 October 1994  |
| Mauritius.....              | 8 August 1993    |
| Paraguay.....               | 6 May 1996       |
| Saint Kitts and Nevis.....  | 25 May 1994      |
| Saint Lucia.....            | 7 November 1991  |
| Senegal.....                | 7 March 1994     |
| Sierra Leone.....           | 11 December 1997 |
| Togo.....                   | 26 October 1992  |
| Trinidad and Tobago.....    | 11 February 1999 |
| Tunisia.....                | 20 October 1994  |
| Uganda.....                 | 21 August 1994   |
| Viet Nam.....               | 19 March 1991    |

#### **D. Fourth periodic reports**

|                                   |                   |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Angola.....                       | 17 October 1999   |
| Australia.....                    | 27 August 1996    |
| Barbados.....                     | 3 September 1995  |
| Belarus.....                      | 3 September 1994  |
| Bhutan.....                       | 30 September 1994 |
| Brazil.....                       | 2 March 1997      |
| Bulgaria.....                     | 10 March 1995     |
| Cape Verde.....                   | 3 September 1994  |
| Congo.....                        | 25 August 1995    |
| Costa Rica.....                   | 4 May 1999        |
| Cyprus.....                       | 22 August 1998    |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo* | 16 November 1999  |
| Dominica.....                     | 3 September 1994  |
| Ecuador.....                      | 9 December 1994   |
| El Salvador.....                  | 18 September 1994 |
| Equatorial Guinea.....            | 22 November 1997  |

| <i>State party</i>                     | <i>Date due</i>   |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Ethiopia .....                         | 10 October 1994   |
| France .....                           | 13 January 1997   |
| Gabon .....                            | 20 February 1996  |
| Ghana .....                            | 1 February 1999   |
| Greece .....                           | 7 July 1996       |
| Guatemala .....                        | 11 September 1995 |
| Guinea .....                           | 8 September 1995  |
| Guinea-Bissau .....                    | 22 September 1998 |
| Guyana .....                           | 3 September 1994  |
| Haiti .....                            | 3 September 1994  |
| Honduras .....                         | 2 April 1996      |
| Hungary .....                          | 3 September 1994  |
| Indonesia .....                        | 13 October 1997   |
| Iraq .....                             | 12 September 1999 |
| Ireland .....                          | 22 January 1999   |
| Italy .....                            | 10 July 1998      |
| Lao People's Democratic Republic ..... | 13 September 1994 |
| Liberia .....                          | 16 August 1997    |
| Malawi .....                           | 11 April 2000     |
| Mali .....                             | 10 October 1998   |
| Mauritius .....                        | 8 August 1997     |
| Nigeria .....                          | 13 July 1998      |
| Panama .....                           | 28 November 1994  |
| Poland .....                           | 3 September 1994  |
| Rwanda .....                           | 3 September 1994  |
| Saint Kitts and Nevis .....            | 25 May 1998       |
| Saint Lucia .....                      | 7 November 1995   |
| Saint Vincent and the Grenadines ..... | 3 September 1994  |
| Senegal .....                          | 7 March 1998      |
| Thailand .....                         | 8 September 1998  |
| Togo .....                             | 26 October 1996   |
| Tunisia .....                          | 20 October 1998   |
| Turkey .....                           | 19 January 1999   |
| Uganda .....                           | 21 August 1998    |

| <i>State party</i>               | <i>Date due</i>   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| United Republic of Tanzania..... | 19 September 1998 |
| Uruguay.....                     | 8 November 1994   |
| Venezuela.....                   | 1 June 1996       |
| Viet Nam.....                    | 19 March 1995     |
| Yugoslavia.....                  | 28 March 1995     |

#### **E. Fifth periodic reports**

|                                       |                   |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Barbados.....                         | 3 September 1999  |
| Belarus.....                          | 3 September 1998  |
| Bhutan.....                           | 30 September 1998 |
| Bulgaria.....                         | 10 March 1999     |
| Canada.....                           | 9 January 1999    |
| China.....                            | 3 September 1998  |
| Colombia.....                         | 18 February 1999  |
| Congo.....                            | 25 August 1999    |
| Cuba.....                             | 3 September 1998  |
| Dominica.....                         | 3 September 1998  |
| Dominican Republic.....               | 2 September 1999  |
| Ecuador.....                          | 9 December 1998   |
| El Salvador.....                      | 18 September 1998 |
| Ethiopia.....                         | 10 October 1998   |
| Gabon.....                            | 20 February 2000  |
| Guatemala.....                        | 11 September 1999 |
| Guinea.....                           | 8 September 1999  |
| Guyana.....                           | 3 September 1998  |
| Haiti.....                            | 3 September 1998  |
| Honduras.....                         | 2 April 2000      |
| Hungary.....                          | 3 September 1998  |
| Lao People's Democratic Republic..... | 13 September 1998 |
| Mexico.....                           | 3 September 1998  |
| Mongolia.....                         | 3 September 1998  |
| Panama.....                           | 28 November 1998  |
| Peru.....                             | 13 October 1999   |
| Philippines.....                      | 4 September 1998  |

| <i>State party</i>                    | <i>Date due</i>  |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Poland.....                           | 3 September 1998 |
| Portugal.....                         | 3 September 1998 |
| Rwanda.....                           | 3 September 1998 |
| Saint Lucia.....                      | 7 November 1999  |
| Saint Vincent and the Grenadines..... | 3 September 1998 |
| Sri Lanka.....                        | 4 November 1998  |
| Sweden.....                           | 3 September 1998 |
| Uruguay.....                          | 8 November 1998  |
| Viet Nam.....                         | 19 March 1999    |
| Yugoslavia.....                       | 28 March 1999    |

\* By a communication dated 20 May 1997, the Secretariat was informed by the Member State formerly known as Zaire that the name of the State had been changed to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

## Annex II

## States parties whose reports have been submitted but have not yet been considered by the Committee

| <i>State party</i>                | <i>Date due</i>   | <i>Date received</i> | <i>Document symbol</i>         |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>A. Initial reports</b>         |                   |                      |                                |
| Fiji                              | 27 September 1996 | 29 February 2000     | CEDAW/C/FIJ/1                  |
| Kazakhstan                        | 25 September 1999 | 26 January 2000      | CEDAW/C/KAZ/1                  |
| Maldives                          | 1 July 1994       | 28 January 1999      | CEDAW/C/MDV/1                  |
| Singapore                         | 4 November 1996   | 30 November 1999     | CEDAW/C/SGP/1                  |
| Uzbekistan                        | 18 August 1996    | 19 January 2000      | CEDAW/C/UZB/1                  |
| <b>B. Second periodic reports</b> |                   |                      |                                |
| Armenia                           | 13 October 1998   | 23 August 1999       | CEDAW/C/ARM/2                  |
| Czech Republic                    | 24 March 1997     | 9 March 2000         | CEDAW/C/CZE/2                  |
| Equatorial Guinea                 | 22 November 1989  | 6 January 1994       | CEDAW/C/GNQ/2-3                |
| Guyana                            | 3 September 1986  | 20 September 1999    | CEDAW/C/GUY/2                  |
| Jamaica <sup>a</sup>              | 18 November 1989  | 17 February 1998     | CEDAW/C/JAM/2-4                |
| Libyan Arab Jamahiriya            | 15 June 1990      | 18 February 1999     | CEDAW/C/LBY/2                  |
| Morocco                           | 29 July 1998      | 28 February 2000     | CEDAW/C/MOR/2                  |
| Netherlands                       | 22 August 1996    | 10 December 1998     | CEDAW/C/NET/2/<br>Add. 1 and 2 |
| Slovenia                          | 5 August 1999     | 26 April 1999        | CEDAW/C/SVN/2                  |
| Uruguay                           | 8 November 1986   | 3 February 1998      | CEDAW/C/URY/2-3                |
| Viet Nam                          | 19 March 1987     | 2 February 1999      | CEDAW/C/VNM/2                  |
| <b>C. Third periodic reports</b>  |                   |                      |                                |
| Belgium                           | 9 August 1994     | 29 October 1998      | CEDAW/C/BEL/3-4                |
| Egypt <sup>a</sup>                | 18 October 1990   | 30 January 1996      | CEDAW/C/EGY/3                  |
| Equatorial Guinea <sup>b</sup>    | 22 November 1993  | 6 January 1994       | CEDAW/C/GNQ/2-3                |
| Finland <sup>a</sup>              | 4 October 1995    | 28 January 1997      | CEDAW/C/FIN/3                  |
| France                            | 13 January 1993   | 5 October 1999       | CEDAW/C/FRA/3                  |
| Iceland                           | 3 July 1994       | 15 July 1998         | CEDAW/C/ICE/3-4                |
| Jamaica <sup>a</sup>              | 18 November 1993  | 17 February 1998     | CEDAW/C/JAM/2-4                |
| Kenya                             | 8 April 1993      | 5 January 2000       | CEDAW/C/KEN/3-4                |
| Mongolia <sup>a</sup>             | 3 September 1990  | 8 December 1998      | CEDAW/C/MNG/3-4                |

| <i>State party</i>                | <i>Date due</i>   | <i>Date received</i> | <i>Document symbol</i> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Sri Lanka                         | 4 November 1990   | 7 October 1999       | CEDAW/C/LKA/3-4        |
| Uruguay                           | 8 November 1990   | 3 February 1998      | CEDAW/C/URY/2-3        |
| Yugoslavia                        | 28 March 1991     | 14 October 1998      | CEDAW/C/YUG/3          |
| Zambia                            | 21 July 1994      | 12 August 1999       | CEDAW/C/ZAM/3-4        |
| <b>D. Fourth periodic reports</b> |                   |                      |                        |
| Argentina                         | 14 August 1998    | 18 January 2000      | CEDAW/C/ARG/4          |
| Belgium                           | 9 August 1994     | 29 October 1998      | CEDAW/C/BEL/3-4        |
| Denmark <sup>b</sup>              | 21 May 1996       | 9 January 1997       | CEDAW/C/DEN/4          |
| Egypt <sup>a</sup>                | 18 October 1994   | 30 March 2000        | CEDAW/C/EGY/4-5        |
| Finland <sup>a</sup>              | 4 October 1999    | 25 October 1999      | CEDAW/C/FIN/4          |
| Iceland                           | 3 July 1998       | 15 July 1998         | CEDAW/C/ICE/3-4        |
| Jamaica <sup>a</sup>              | 18 November 1997  | 17 February 1998     | CEDAW/C/JAM/2-4        |
| Japan                             | 25 July 1998      | 24 July 1998         | CEDAW/C/JPN/4          |
| Mongolia <sup>a</sup>             | 3 September 1994  | 8 December 1998      | CEDAW/C/MNG/3-4        |
| Nicaragua                         | 26 November 1994  | 16 June 1998         | CEDAW/C/NIC/4          |
| Portugal                          | 3 September 1994  | 25 October 1999      | CEDAW/C/PRT/4          |
| Sri Lanka                         | 4 November 1994   | 7 October 1999       | CEDAW/C/LKA/3-4        |
| Sweden <sup>b</sup>               | 3 September 1994  | 21 May 1996          | CEDAW/C/SWE/4          |
| Ukraine                           | 3 September 1994  | 2 August 1999        | CEDAW/C/UKR/4-5        |
| Yemen                             | 29 June 1997      | 8 March 2000         | CEDAW/C/YEM/4          |
| Zambia                            | 21 July 1998      | 12 August 1999       | CEDAW/C/ZAM/3-4        |
| <b>E. Fifth periodic reports</b>  |                   |                      |                        |
| Egypt <sup>a</sup>                | 18 October 1994   | 30 March 2000        | CEDAW/C/EGY/4-5        |
| Nicaragua                         | 26 November 1998  | 2 September 1999     | CEDAW/C/NIC/5          |
| Norway                            | 3 September 1998  | 23 March 2000        | CEDAW/C/NOR/5          |
| Russian Federation <sup>b</sup>   | 3 September 1998  | 3 March 1999         | CEDAW/C/USR/5          |
| Ukraine                           | 30 September 1998 | 2 August 1999        | CEDAW/C/UKR/4-5        |

<sup>a</sup> Reports to be considered by the Committee at its twenty-fourth session, to be held in New York in January 2001.

<sup>b</sup> Reports that have been translated, reproduced and made available in all official languages.



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12-30 June 2000

Item 5 of the provisional agenda\*

**Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the  
Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against  
Women**

**Reports provided by specialized agencies of the United  
Nations on the implementation of the Convention in  
areas falling within the scope of their activities**

**Note by the Secretary-General**

In accordance with article 22 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex) specialized agencies of the United Nations have been invited to submit to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, at its twenty-third session, reports on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities. The reports will be issued as addenda to the present document.

\* CEDAW/C/2000/11/1.





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**Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the**

**Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**

**Report provided by specialized agencies of the United  
Nations on the implementation of the Convention in areas  
falling within the scope of their activities**

**Note by the Secretary-General**

**Addendum**

**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**

1. On 12 April 2000, on behalf of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Secretariat invited the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to submit to the Committee, by 15 May 2000, a report on information provided by States to FAO on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, in areas falling within the scope of its activities, which would supplement the information contained in the reports of the States parties to the Convention that will be considered at the Committee's twenty-third session. A country brief prepared by FAO is annexed to the present report.

2. Other information sought by the Committee refers to activities, programmes and policy decisions undertaken by FAO to promote the implementation of the Convention.

3. The report annexed hereto has been submitted in compliance with the Committee's request.

\* CEDAW/2000/II/1.



## Annex

### Report of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations to the twenty-third session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

(Headquarters, New York, 12 to 30 June 2000)

#### Country: Cameroon

In the framework of the implementation of its plan of action on women in development (1996-2001), FAO provided technical assistance to Cameroon, in particular in the following three priority areas: improvement of gender data and information on rural populations; strengthening of national capacity-building through gender training; and household resource management programme.

#### 1. Gender sensitive statistics and information

(a) Cameroon participated in the high-level consultation on rural women and information organized by FAO in October 1999. This meeting brought together ministers and senior officials from ministries of women's affairs and agriculture, media specialists and representatives of civil society to discuss ways of better informing decision makers, media and the public at large on the essential role of rural women in agricultural and rural development and their contribution to food security. The main outcome of the consultation was the strategy for action for the production, dissemination and utilization of information and data on rural women. Specific follow-up actions will be included in the next FAO plan of action on gender (2002-2005) as well as in individual national action plans for the integration of women in development.

(b) In the framework of its assistance to member countries to improve their statistical operations, FAO invited Cameroon to participate in the recent roundtable in Abidjan in March to analyse the new trends of the World Agricultural Census 2000, in Africa. On the basis of their national agricultural census 1984/85, Cameroon has just now put in place a permanent agricultural survey system. At the same time, the Government has completely reviewed its definitions, concepts and methodologies. Advice and technical elements for the inclusion of a gender dimension have been provided. In addition, since agricultural extension agents, who are utilized as frontline enumerators are now given gender training, there is some hope that gender issues are more likely to be taken into consideration.

#### 2. Socio-economic and gender analysis training

A training of trainer's workshop on socio-economic and gender analysis (SEAGA) was carried out in Yaoundé, Cameroon, from 7 to 28 November 1999. The collaborating institutions were FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the Human Resources Office of the Department of Agricultural Research and Extension of the Ministry of Agriculture of Cameroon (PNVRA).

The objective of the workshop was to re-enforce national capacity for integrating socio-economic and gender analysis and participative approaches in agricultural extension work.

The workshop participants came from PNVRA headquarters in Yaoundé, as well as from each of the 10 provincial PNVRA offices. Selected non-governmental organizations (NGOs) also participated. For this joint undertaking there were four facilitators for the workshops, one each from IFAD, FAO, PNVRA headquarters and from a local NGO called "Gender Lenses".

The workshop stressed the following three components: (a) presentation of the SEAGA framework and discussion of integration of the gender dimension in extension work; (b) exercises in using SEAGA tools; (c) the practical application of SEAGA on the PNVRA's plan of action as well as practice in scheduling future SEAGA training of trainers workshops.

### **3. Household resource management programme**

Cameroon was one of the pilot beneficiary countries of a project designed to strengthen national household resource management programmes. Project activities included the training of home economics offices using SEAGA methodologies, the preparation of a strategy document to re-orient home economics programmes to meet the needs and new roles of rural women. The main outcome has been a SEAGA sector guide to assist development agents to improve their performance by using more appropriate and more participatory tools and methodologies at the household and community level, while simultaneously taking global development policies into consideration.



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**Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the  
Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**

**Report provided by specialized agencies of the United  
Nations on the Implementation of the Convention in areas  
falling within the scope of their activities**

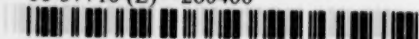
**Note by the Secretary-General**

**Addendum**

**World Health Organization**

1. On behalf of the Committee, on 18 November 1999, the Secretariat invited the World Health Organization (WHO) to submit to the Committee, by 20 December 1999, a report on information provided by States to WHO on the implementation of article 14 and related articles of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which would supplement the information contained in the reports of the States parties to the Convention that will be considered at the twenty-third session. The annex to the present note contains a country brief prepared by WHO.
2. Other information sought by the Committee referred to activities, programmes and policy decisions undertaken by WHO to promote the implementation of article 14 and related articles of the Convention.
3. The report annexed hereto has been submitted in compliance with the Committee's request.

\* CEDAW/C/2000/11/1.



## Annex

### Report of the World Health Organization to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its twenty-third session (June 2000)

#### Introduction

1. Under article 12 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women States parties are required to "take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of health care in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, access to health care services, including those related to family planning". The article further draws particular attention to "appropriate services in connection with pregnancy, confinement and the postnatal period". The Beijing Platform for Action (1995) builds on this article and strengthens it by specifying five strategic objectives, as follows:

- To increase women's access throughout the life cycle to appropriate, affordable and quality health care, information and related services;
- To strengthen preventive programmes that promote women's health;
- To undertake gender-sensitive initiatives that address sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, and sexual and reproductive health issues;
- To promote research and disseminate information on women's health;
- To increase resources and monitor follow-up for women's health.<sup>1</sup>

2. This report presents currently available data on selected health indicators for countries submitting third or fourth reports (Iraq, Austria, Cuba and Romania) under four main headings: sexual and reproductive health; HIV/AIDS; health promotion and disease prevention; and violence against women.

#### Health status

3. Tables 1 to 6 present a summary of indicators in the areas of reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, tobacco use and violence against women.

4. Iraq has relatively poor indicators in reproductive health: a high maternal mortality ratio at 310 per 100,000 live births,<sup>2</sup> with only 54 per cent of births being attended by a skilled person; a low rate of contraceptive use, estimated to be 14 per cent of married women; and a correspondingly high total fertility rate of 5.3. There is no information on HIV/AIDS prevalence, tobacco use among women or violence against women.

5. Austria, which reports a maternal mortality ratio of 10 per 100,000 live births and skilled attendants present at all deliveries, shows the much improved reproductive health status in the industrialized world. Seventy-one per cent of married women are reported to use contraception and the total fertility rate is only 1.4. With regard to HIV/AIDS, it is reported that, by the end of 1997, 7,500 people were living with HIV/AIDS, of whom 1,400 were female. Homosexual transmission was the predominant route among men (49 per cent of all AIDS cases to 1997),

while women mostly were infected through intravenous drug use (42 per cent of all AIDS cases to 1997).<sup>3</sup> Tobacco use among women, estimated at 24.6 per cent in a 1995 survey, represents a continuing health hazard.<sup>4</sup> Violence is also a serious problem, with 19 per cent of women affected, as shown by a 1992 survey. Among divorce cases the percentage was 59.<sup>5</sup>

6. **Cuba**, in spite of a lower level of prosperity, shows relatively good reproductive health indicators; maternal mortality ratio is 95, with 99 per cent of births supervised by a skilled attendant. Contraceptive use, estimated at 70 per cent of married women, is at the same level as that in Austria, and the total fertility rate (1.6) reflects this concern for family planning.<sup>6</sup> The prevalence of HIV/AIDS is very low (0.02 per cent of adults) and 90 per cent of infections are transmitted through heterosexual contact.

7. **In Romania**, 99 per cent of deliveries are supervised by a skilled attendant, but the maternal mortality ratio remains relatively high at 130. Contraceptive use was estimated to be 57 per cent of married women in 1993, but more recent data are not available. The total fertility rate of 1.2 is in keeping with the trends in the region. The prevalence of HIV/AIDS infection is low. By the end of 1997, it was reported that the main mode of transmission was through blood products (19 per cent), followed by heterosexual transmission. There are no data on violence against women.

## References

- <sup>1</sup> *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution I, annex II, chap. IV, sect. C.
- <sup>2</sup> WHO/UNICEF revised 1990 estimates of maternal mortality, Geneva (1996).
- <sup>3</sup> WHO/UNAIDS epidemiological fact sheets on HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases, Geneva (1999).
- <sup>4</sup> WHO, Tobacco Free Initiative (1999).
- <sup>5</sup> WHO, Database on violence against women (1999).
- <sup>6</sup> United Nations Population Division, New York (1999).

Table 1  
Maternal mortality and attendance at birth

|         | Maternal mortality ratio<br>(1990 estimates) | Skilled attendant at delivery<br>(%) (latest) |
|---------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Iraq    | 310                                          | 54                                            |
| Austria | 10                                           | 100                                           |
| Cuba    | 95                                           | 99                                            |
| Romania | 130                                          | 99                                            |

Table 2  
Legal status of abortion

|         | Abortion permitted |                 |               |              |                |                 |            |
|---------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|------------|
|         | Save life          | Physical health | Mental health | Rape, incest | Fetal problems | Economic/social | On request |
| Iraq    | X                  |                 |               |              |                |                 |            |
| Austria | X                  | X               | X             | X            | X              | X               | X          |
| Cuba    | X                  | X               | X             | X            | X              | X               | X          |
| Romania | X                  | X               | X             | X            | X              | X               | X          |

Table 3  
Contraceptive prevalence and total fertility rate

|         | Contraceptive use, % of married women | Total fertility rate 1995-2000 |
|---------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Iraq    | 14                                    | 1990 5.3                       |
| Austria | 71                                    | 1981-1982 1.4                  |
| Cuba    | 70                                    | 1987 1.6                       |
| Romania | 57                                    | 1993 1.2                       |

Table 4  
HIV/AIDS

|         | % adults | Median % pregnant, urban | Median % pregnant, non-urban | Main modes of transmission                          |
|---------|----------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Iraq    | ..       | ..                       | ..                           | ..                                                  |
| Austria | 0.18     | ..                       | ..                           | Intravenous drug users (42%) and heterosexual (39%) |
| Cuba    | 0.02     | 0                        | ..                           | Heterosexual (90%)                                  |
| Romania | 0.01     | ..                       | ..                           | By blood products (19%)                             |

Table 5  
Tobacco use among women

|         | Current regular smokers, age 15-25 |                |
|---------|------------------------------------|----------------|
|         | Percentage                         | Year of survey |
| Iraq    | No data                            | ..             |
| Austria | 24.6                               | 1995           |
| Cuba    | 34.2                               | 1995           |
| Romania | 15                                 | 1996/97        |

Table 6  
Violence against women

| Field data     | Sample size | Sample group | Measure       | Location                | Time frame | Relationship        | All types        | Physical violence, % | Rape | Notes                                    |
|----------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------------|------------|---------------------|------------------|----------------------|------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>Austria</b> |             |              |               |                         |            |                     |                  |                      |      |                                          |
| Vienna         | 1992        | 1 500        | Divorce cases | Report citation         | ..         | In current marriage | Husband          | 59.0                 |      | Violence cited as factor in divorce case |
| Vienna         | 1992        | 2 200        | All women     | Interpersonal conflicts | Adult educ | Past 12 months      | Male, non-spouse | 19.0                 |      |                                          |



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**Implementation of article 22 of the Convention  
on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination  
against Women**

**Report provided by specialized agencies of the United  
Nations on the implementation of the Convention in  
areas falling within the scope of their activities**

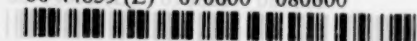
**Note by the Secretary-General**

**Addendum**

**United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization**

1. On behalf of the Committee, the Secretariat invited the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), on 12 April 2000, to submit to the Committee by 15 May 2000 a report on information provided by States to UNESCO on the implementation of article 12 and related articles of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which would supplement the information contained in the reports of the States parties to the Convention that will be considered at the twenty-third session. The annex to the present note contains a country brief prepared by UNESCO.
2. Other information sought by the Committee referred to activities, programmes and policy decisions undertaken by UNESCO to promote the implementation of article 12 and related articles of the Convention.
3. The report annexed hereto has been submitted in compliance with the Committee's request.

\* CEDAW/C/2000/II/1.



## Annex

### **Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its twenty-third session (June 2000)**

## **I. Introduction**

1. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women will hold its twenty-third session from 12 to 30 June 2000 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. At that time, the Committee will consider the reports of the following countries: Austria, Cameroon, Cuba, Iraq, Lithuania, Republic of Moldova and Romania.

2. In accordance with article 22 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, specialized agencies are invited "to submit reports on the implementation of the Convention in the areas falling within the scope of their activities", as well as provide information on any recent activities, programmes and policies of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) that would promote the implementation of article 10 and any related articles of the Convention. UNESCO's contribution to the implementation of the Convention within the scope of the Organization is provided in section III of the present report. Section III of the report provides the measures taken by UNESCO to implement the Convention in the countries being considered.

## **III. Contribution of UNESCO to the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women within the scope of the Organization**

3. The preparation of UNESCO's contribution to the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the implementation of commitments made at the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995), to be presented at the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (5-9 June 2000), is currently under way. The first draft of the report, entitled, "Partnership is Power: Women and Men for Gender Equality. A Preliminary Overview", prepared by the

Status of Women and Gender Equality Unit, was distributed at the thirtieth session of the General Conference and to the field offices and NGOs (over 4,000 copies in English and French), and a more complete report will be distributed during the one hundred fifty-ninth session of the Executive Board, including an assessment of UNESCO's efforts to implement the five resolutions adopted by the UNESCO General Conference concerning women and gender equality.

4. As the lead agency responsible for the implementation of article 10 (on education) of the Convention, UNESCO is actively engaged in mobilizing wide support for the Convention and for activities in favour of gender equality. In this context, the UNESCO Gender Unit in 1998 produced "The Passport to Equality", a personalized, passport-sized presentation of the Convention. It has proved to be such a successful tool to create awareness of the Convention and to foster its implementation widely, that an updated version of it was brought out in 1999. It includes information on the Optional Protocol (adopted by the General Assembly in 1999) and has been published in English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, Hindi, Urdu and Swahili. The Arabic, Chinese and Russian versions will be finalized shortly. Altogether 120,000 copies of "The Passport to Equality" have been printed and are being disseminated through the UNESCO networks, as well as United Nations entities (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), International Labour Organization, Division for the Advancement of Women of the Secretariat, United Nations Population Fund, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Development Fund for Women and United Nations Children's Fund). The UNESCO office in El Salvador and the UNESCO Gender Unit have also produced a popular Spanish-language version of the Passport aimed at illiterate and newly literate people. Additionally, the UNESCO office in Conakry has translated the Passport into nine local languages and will be using it as a tool to teach/

inform people about their rights through workshops with local NGOs.

5. In compliance with the commitment of the executive heads of all United Nations entities (Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) statement on gender mainstreaming<sup>1</sup>), a network of gender focal points established headquarters and in the field continues to be active in promoting gender mainstreaming within UNESCO programmes. However, many of the focal points do not receive sufficient support for gender mainstreaming activities within the sectors. The Gender Unit is increasing its efforts to improve the situation, in particular by organizing training and awareness-raising activities for staff and by preparing and distributing practical tools for gender mainstreaming (strategy design, a handbook with examples of best practices, checklists, lists of indicators). Staff attention needs to be drawn to the fact that gender mainstreaming is an individual as well as a collective responsibility; also, the accountability of the higher-ranking staff for encouraging (or discouraging) gender mainstreaming in the units under their responsibility should be reflected in personal performance reports.

#### **Girls, women and education**

6. Literacy and basic education for girls and women remain UNESCO's concern. While significant progress has been made in providing education for all, gender disparities continue to persist in enrolment, literacy, access and quality of education. Although enrolment ratios in primary education have increased considerably over the past 20 years, gender gaps remain relatively high in some parts of the world. Thus the World Education Forum held recently in Dakar (April 2000), which was attended by representatives of 181 Governments and numerous NGOs, reiterated the need to eliminate gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005 and to achieve gender equality by 2015, with a special focus on ensuring full and equal access of girls to basic education. The Framework for Action adopted at the Forum commits participating Governments to achieve quality basic education for all and six targeted goals, three of which specifically concern women, girls and gender issues.

#### **Women in decision-making**

#### **Women and communication**

7. The long-lasting debate on mass communication, society and the role of women received a practical boost on 8 March 2000 as women assumed editorial responsibility in hundreds of media enterprises in all regions of the world. This action was triggered by the Director-General of UNESCO, who invited the media worldwide to mark International Women's Day this year by making room for women journalists at the highest levels of decision-making in media institutions. The initiative was endorsed enthusiastically by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, and numerous distinguished personalities such as Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and currently United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Secretary-General of the International Organization of la Francophonie; Anna Diamantopoulou, European Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs; Bettina Peters, on behalf of the International Federation of Journalists; Carol Simpson of ABC News, as Co-Chair of the International Women's Media Foundation; Gundel Krauss Dahl, President of the International Association of Women in Radio and Television; and many others.

8. Altogether more than 1010 media entities from 56 countries responded to the call from the Director-General. Thousands of women journalists (6,000-8,000) exercised increased editorial responsibilities on 8 March 2000. The excellent response to the UNESCO 8 March Appeal is therefore a promising sign. An in-depth assessment has been foreseen as an input to the Beijing +5 special session (June 2000).

9. The need to ensure gender equality not only in the ranks of journalists but also in media management was expressed at the international symposium entitled "Women and the Media: Access to Expression and Decision-Making" (held by UNESCO at Toronto, Canada, in March 1995, and subsequently at the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, June 1995). One of the strategic objectives of the Beijing Platform for Action is "to increase the participation and access of women to expression and decision-making in and through the media and new technologies of communication."<sup>2</sup> This is necessary in order to ensure the free flow of independent and pluralistic information ensured by competent journalists regardless of sex, race, ethnic origin, etc. It will also help eliminate the

gender-based stereotyping that is still prevalent in most media today.

10. Five years later, the gender balance has somewhat improved, but the highest managerial posts still remain closed to women. Various studies show that women account for only 10 per cent of the news source. Women are under-represented in newsrooms either as reporters or as editors, and they tend not to be considered as a serious source of news. This situation prevails also in other important institutions such as parliaments, universities, scientific and research institutes, governing bodies at all levels, etc. In each of these, women continue to be under-represented, if not entirely absent, from the real loci of power, i.e., participating in the decisions that matter the most, such as the definition of priorities, budget allocation, distribution of resources, accountability, etc. In other words, a greater gender balance in the rank and file is a step ahead, but it is no guarantee for gender equality unless women share with men, on an equal basis, all forms and expressions of economic and political power in society.

11. The role of the media — and women sharing power in the media — is particularly important in this regard. The influence of the media on the opinion, attitudes and behaviour of people has been well documented and need not be belaboured. It is therefore reasonable to believe that breaking the glass ceiling in the media will help women break such ceilings also in all other forums of power.

### **III. Measures taken by UNESCO to implement the provisions of the Convention in particular in the countries being considered at the twenty-third session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women**

#### **Austria**

##### **Basic statistics**

12. Population (in thousands), year 2000: males, 4,052; females, 4,158. Population (in thousands) aged 15-49, year 2000: males, 2,183; females, 2,014. Gross enrolment ratios at first and second levels combined,

1996: males, 103; females, 101. Net enrolment ratio at first level, 1996: males, 86; females, 89.

#### **Activities under the UNESCO programme for 1998/99**

##### **Women, science and technology**

13. UNESCO held a series of regional consultations throughout the world on women and science, in the run-up to the World Conference on Science (Budapest, 26 June-1 July 1999). Austria participated in the European regional forum, which was organized by the Slovenia National Committee for UNESCO (Bled, Slovenia 5-7 November 1998). Numerous conclusions were reached on the importance of women's participation in science and technology as a condition for sustainable development.

##### **Strengthening local capacities — promoting cultural practices**

14. Under the UNESCO-Archberg Bursaries for Artists programme and in collaboration with the Federal Chancellery of Austria and the International Summer Academy Semmering, young artists, both female and male, from different countries (two from India, one from South Africa, three from Argentina, two from Peru and one from the Democratic Republic of the Congo) participated in a programme to strengthen local capacities and promote cultural practices.

##### **Overall policy for development cooperation**

15. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs handles cooperation with the United Nations system. A very substantial part of Austria's official development assistance is channelled through NGOs. The Austrian cooperation programme is also characterized by a number of activities where development considerations are not the main motivation (export credits, refugee assistance and imputed costs for students from developing countries). Education is one of the substantive priorities. Geographical emphasis remains on Eastern and Central Europe. During 1998, contributions to UNESCO programmes mainly focused on the associate expert scheme, the International Institute for Educational Planning, the World Heritage Fund and the Fund for Knowledge of Human Rights.

## Cameroon

### Basic statistics

16. Population (in thousands), year 2000: total, 15,043; males, 7,500; females, 7,543. Population (in thousands) aged 15-49, year 2000: males, 3,441; females, 3,478. Adult illiteracy rate estimates for 2000: male and female, 24.1; males, 17.9; females, 30. Gross enrolment ratio at first and second levels combined, 1994: males, 63; females, 53.

### Activities under the UNESCO programme for 1998/99

#### Women and education

17. UNESCO organized a workshop for focal points in Cameroon at Abidjan on 2 and 3 March 1999, devoted to the project entitled "Education of school-aged girls in Africa", which provided training to school-aged girls and women in Africa. The objective of the workshop was to discuss the overall strategy and orientation of the project and the development of training modules.

18. Representatives from a grass-roots women's organization from Cameroon participated in the UNESCO/UNAIDS Regional Workshop on Preventive Education against HIV/AIDS for Women in Africa (Abidjan, 7-11 September 1998). The workshop was attended by participants from 17 countries of sub-Saharan Africa. The overall objective was to provide women and girls with the required awareness and skills to tackle HIV and reduce the current rate of HIV transmission. Specific goals included reinforcing the capacity of local facilitators to raise awareness, identifying examples of "best practices" concerning HIV/AIDS preventive education and proposing a compilation of strategies and research on transmitting gender-sensitive health messages to illiterate and newly literate people. In this regard, the following two publications were published by the UNESCO Dakar office: *HIV/AIDS Preventive Education: A Practical Guide for Coordinators of Women's Grassroots Organizations in Africa*; and *African Women and AIDS: Scope, Impact and Response*.

#### Enlarging girls' access to scientific, technical and vocational education

19. Cameroon was one of the countries covered in "Female Education in Mathematics and Science in Africa", a project of the African Distance Education Association Working Group on Female Participation financed by a donors' consortium, which included UNESCO.

#### Women, science and technology

20. Cameroon participated in the African regional forum entitled "Women, science and technology in Africa" (Burkina Faso, 25-28 January 1999), part of a series of regional consultations worldwide initiated by UNESCO and other partners in the run-up to the World Conference on Science (Budapest, 26 June-1 July 1999). The purpose of the forum was to report on the participation of women in scientific and technological development and to pinpoint resources that could help bridge the huge gap between the number of men and the number of women working in the field. The main concerns expressed by each of the forums as well as the final reports were the subject of discussion during the World Conference.

#### Women and a culture of peace

21. The UNESCO Women and a Culture of Peace programme provided assistance to women in Africa in their efforts to stop violence and armed conflict on the continent and to attain recognition as vital partners in the peace-building processes. The special project on "Women and the Culture of Peace in Africa, 1998-1999", which has been ongoing in Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Republic of the Congo, Namibia, Sierra Leone and the United Republic of Tanzania, accomplished a number of significant results. In this regard, seven case studies were produced on women's approaches to traditional non-violent conflict resolution, prevention and peace-building techniques and experience, including a study on Cameroon, entitled "Traditional conflict resolution by women". These were carried out in collaboration with such African NGOs as the African Association of Women for Research and Development (AAWORD) and the UNESCO office in the Central African Republic.

22. Cameroon participated in the Pan-African Women's Conference on a Culture of Peace, organized

by UNESCO, the Organization of African Unity and the Economic Commission for Africa at Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania, in May 1999. The conference provided a forum for African women to develop their own agendas for conflict resolution, peace-building and reconciliation. At the conference, the Zanzibar Declaration entitled "Women of Africa for a Culture of Peace and the Women's Agenda for a Culture of Peace in Africa," was adopted by 50 African States (including Cameroon). The Declaration also received support at the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (Algiers, July 1999) and by the thirtieth General Conference of UNESCO (Paris, November 1999).

#### **Fellowships**

23. Under the UNESCO 1998-1999 scholarship programme, a scholarship was granted to Ms. V. Mapto Kengne to carry out a three-month course of study in documentary research in France. In 1998, under the project "Fonds-en-depot No. 507/INT/13", a scholarship was granted to Ms. J. Mouthe for an eight-month course of study in educational planning and administration at the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP). And under the Republic of Korea/UNESCO scholarship programme, a scholarship was granted in 1999 to Ms. S. V. Ebote for a 27-day course of study in television documentary production.

#### **Cuba**

##### **Basic statistics**

24. Population (in thousands), year 2000: total, 11,201; males, 5,612; females, 5,589. Population (in thousands) aged 15-49, year 2000: males, 3,082; females, 3,028. Adult illiteracy rate estimates for 2000: male and female, 3.3; males, 3.2; females, 3.4. Gross enrolment ratio at first and second levels combined, 1996: males, 93; females, 96. Net enrolment ratio at first level, 1996: males, 100; females, 100.

##### **Activities under the UNESCO regular programme for 1998/99**

##### **Women and education**

25. UNESCO provided support to Cuba for activities promoting the exchange of experiences and the

diffusion of innovative practices in education for sustainable development. These included training courses and workshops and/or training of multiple actors within the community; and publication of training materials for youth and women.

26. Support was also given to promoting and reinforcing the participation of young women and men in problem-solving at the local level in the communities of the Western Zapata Swamp, currently a protected area which is under consideration to be declared a Biosphere Reserve.

##### **Educating for a culture of peace**

27. Under the UNESCO Women and a Culture of Peace programme relevant publications and materials were distributed to national recipients. These included "All Human Beings ..., A Manual for Human Rights Education" for primary and secondary schools, which includes a section on "The Rights of Women and Girls and Combating Stereotypes"; and "The Practice of Citizenship", the UNESCO civic education kit.

##### **Women, science and technology**

28. UNESCO supported the participation of Latin American specialists in the field of gender, science and technology, particularly from the less developed countries, in the UNESCO regional forum on "Women, Science and Technology: Diagnosis and Strategies" (San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina, 1998). Cuba participated in the forum and contributed to the editing and publication of the technical report of the meeting. The forum devoted attention to the integration of gender issues in the upcoming World Conference on Science (Budapest, 1999) and presenting recommendations thereon at the Conference. In that regard, UNESCO and the United Nations Development Fund for Women jointly funded the participation of a Cuban female scientist at the Budapest Conference.

##### **Strengthening local capacities — promoting cultural practices**

29. UNESCO supported the international competition entitled "Design 21", with the aim of promoting cultural diversity through fashion. Criteria for the selection of winning designers were innovation in the fashion industry with due respect to cultural identity and the use of renewable local raw materials. The young women and men chosen were given international

recognition through a fashion show on the occasion of Expo 98 in Lisbon (7 June 1998) and an exhibition at the Museu Nacional do Traje in Lisbon (24 June-24 September 1998). The laureate from Cuba was Elena Gómex Canosa.

#### **Women and health**

30. The fifth session of the UNESCO International Bioethics Committee was held in Noordwijk, the Netherlands, from 2 to 4 December 1998. A report on "Women's Health, Bioethics and Human Rights" was presented at the session and denounced discrimination against women in health resulting from unequal access to care. The report focused on women's health through the various stages of life; health and reproduction; violence against women and girls in Latin America, including Cuba; the health of elderly women; as well as case studies (gender selection of foetuses, excision, etc).

#### **Fellowships**

31. Under the UNESCO scholarship programme, a one-year fellowship was granted to Ms. L. Boggiano for the study of the conservation and restoration of monuments at Cecree, Brazil. Also, under the UNESCO/Czech Republic fellowship programme, a scholarship was granted to Ms. C. Batista for the study of analytic chemistry.

#### **Participation programme for 1998/99**

32. With the support of UNESCO, a project on human rights education for a culture of peace for the Americas was carried out in collaboration with the spouses of the heads of State of the Governments of the countries of the Americas.

33. The main mission of the UNESCO office in Havana is to promote and contribute to the cultural development and integration of the region. This includes implementing cultural activities related to development, such as valuation of the cultural heritage, promotion of cultural industries, cultural tourism and creativity as a motor for cultural life and economic development at the national, subregional and regional levels.

### **Iraq**

#### **Basic statistics**

34. Population (in thousands), year 2000: total, 23,115; males, 11,756; females, 11,359. Population (in thousands) aged 15-49, year 2000: males, 5,736; females, 5,492. Adult illiteracy rate estimates for 2000: male and female, 44.1; males, 34.4; females, 54.1. Gross enrolment ratio at first and second levels, combined, 1995: males, 73; females, 58. Net enrolment ratio at first level, 1995: males, 81; females, 71.

#### **Activities under the UNESCO programme for 1998/99**

#### **Women and education**

#### **Educational indicators**

35. The Director of the Planning Department in the Ministry of Education in Iraq participated in the subregional training workshop on gender-sensitive statistics and indicators for the Arab States, organized at Amman by UNESCO in collaboration with the Jordanian National Committee for UNESCO in November 1998.

36. Upon the request of the Government of Iraq, UNESCO undertook a mission (June 1999) to develop and design a secondary school for girls in Baghdad. A site was identified, discussions were held with the national authorities and basic educational specifications were obtained. Based on those discussions, a project outline was prepared, which included the conceptual design of the school. A model of the school was also developed and presented in August 1999 to the Permanent Representative of Iraq to UNESCO for endorsement.

#### **Fellowships**

37. Under the UNESCO scholarship programme, a fellowship was awarded to Ms. D. Yakoub for a one-year course of study in human resources in 1998/99 at the Institute for Higher Education and Continuing Training in Tunisia. A Hirayama/UNESCO Silk Roads Fellowship was awarded to Ms. N. Al-Mutawalli for studies during 1999 on trade between Mesopotamia and the East, using cuneiform texts.

**Extrabudgetary programme***National projects*

38. Through the International Programme for the Development of Communication, funds were provided to Iraq for the purchase of equipment for the production of programmes for children, youth and women.

**Lithuania**

39. Population (in thousands), year 2000: total, 3,670; males, 1,732; females, 1,938. Population (in thousands) aged 15-49, year 2000: males, 941; females, 941. Adult illiteracy rate estimates for 2000: male and female, 0.4; males, 0.3; females, 0.5. Gross enrolment ratio at first and second levels combined, 1996: males, 90; females, 91.

**Activities under the UNESCO programme for 1998/99****Women, science and technology**

40. Lithuania participated in the European regional conference convened by the UNESCO National Commission of Slovenia at Bled, Slovenia, from 5 to 7 November 1998 in the run-up to the World Conference on Science (Budapest, 26 June-1 July 1999), where unanimous agreement was reached on the importance of women's participation in science and technology as a condition for sustainable development. Firm support was also guaranteed for the integration of gender issues in the Budapest Conference and presenting recommendations thereon at the Conference.

**Sharing of knowledge in the exact and natural sciences**

41. The UNESCO spirit of strengthening cooperation between scientists led to the launching on 4 May 1998 of the Romanian section of Euroscience, a forum promoting pan-European collaboration, within the framework of an international workshop. The launch was attended by 86 participants (including high-level experts, media professionals and government officials, 50 of whom were women), largely from Romania, but also from Lithuania and the Republic of Moldova.

**Fellowships**

42. Fellowships were awarded to Ms. V. Panomariovaite, Ms. V. Pabarskaite and Ms. L. Zadeikaite, within the framework of the 1998-1999 UNESCO Fellowship Bank Programme for, respectively: a six-month course of study in music (piano) at the Conservatory of Music in Paris; a two-week course of study in culture at UNESCO headquarters in Paris; and a two-week course of study in education also at UNESCO headquarters.

**Republic of Moldova**

43. Population (in thousands), year 2000: total, 4,380; males, 2,097; females, 2,283. Population (in thousands) aged 15-49, year 2000: males, 1,151; females, 1,190. Adult illiteracy rate estimates for 2000: male and female, 1.1; males, 0.5; females, 1.7. Gross enrolment ratio at first and second levels combined, 1996: males, 86; females, 87.

**Activities under the UNESCO programme for 1998/99****Women and education****UNESCO Institute for Educational Planning**

44. The Republic of Moldova participated in the programme entitled "Monitoring and Evaluation from a Gender Perspective" (Quezon City, 1999).

**Women, science and technology**

45. The Republic of Moldova participated in the summer school on "Structure and Stability of Nucleons and Nuclear Systems", held in Romania from 24 August to 5 September 1998. The summer school was attended by 63 participants, of whom 22 were women (researchers, high-level experts and university teachers). Furthermore, the Republic of Moldova attended the 11th Congress of the Federation of European Societies of Plant Physiology, held at Varna, Bulgaria, from 7 to 11 September 1998. Participants at the Congress numbered more than 350, of whom 145 were women.

## Romania

### Basic statistics

46. Population (in thousands), year 2000: total, 22,326; males, 10,957; females, 11,369. Population (in thousands) aged 15-49, year 2000: males, 5,976; females, 5,818. Adult illiteracy rate estimates for 2000: male and female, 1.9; males, 1; females, 2.8. Gross enrolment ratio at first and second levels combined, 1996: males, 87; females, 86. Net enrolment ratio at first level, 1996: males, 96; females, 95.

### Activities under the UNESCO programme for 1998/99

#### Women and education

47. Within the framework of the special project entitled "Women, Higher Education and Development", input was provided to the regional programme of the European Centre for Higher Education (CEPES) entitled "Good Practices in Promoting Gender Equality in Higher Education".

48. The Envila University for Women, in Minsk, participated in the preparation of case studies on good practices in gender issues across the region. As an outcome of those case studies, a workshop is being planned.

49. UNESCO participated in data collection in collaboration with the Romanian Ministry of National Education, the Faculty of Juridical Sciences in Oradea, Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, the University of Timisoara, and AnA, the Romanian Society for Feminist Analyses. A case study was prepared in this regard by Mihaela Miroiu of the National School for Political and Administrative Sciences in Bucharest.

### Assistance to Member States to develop national policies on educating for a sustainable future

#### Women, science and technology

50. Romania participated in the international summer school on high-energy physics, organized by the Joint Institute of Nuclear Research.

51. Additionally, it participated in the summer school on "Structure and Stability of Nucleons and Nuclear

Systems", held in Romania from 24 August to 5 September 1998, which was partially funded by the Venice office of the UNESCO Regional Office for Science and Technology for Europe (UVO-ROSTE). The topics discussed covered various sub-fields ranging from low to high energies, from nucleon structure to reaction mechanism and from stable to chaotic systems. Out of 63 researchers at the summer school, 22 were women.

52. Romania also participated in an international workshop on biodynamics and membranes, which received partial funding from UVO-ROSTE. Of the 86 high-level experts, researchers and university professors attending the workshop, 50 were women.

53. UNESCO held a series of regional consultations worldwide on the subject of women and science. Romania participated in the European regional forum entitled "Women in Science and Technology: Quality and Equality — Conditions for Sustainable Human Development", held at Bled, Slovenia, from 5 to 7 November 1998, and organized by the Slovenian National Committee for UNESCO in the run-up to the World Conference on Science (Budapest, June/July 1999). Numerous outputs were elaborated; in particular, unanimous agreement was reached on the importance of women's participation in science and technology as a condition for sustainable development. Firm support was also guaranteed towards the integration of gender issues in the Budapest Conference and for presenting recommendations thereon at the Conference. Of the 110 participants attending the regional forum, 83 were women.

54. The research project entitled "Cities, the Environment and Gender Relations", conducted by the UNESCO Management of Social Transformations (MOST) programme in partnership with the Swiss National Committee for UNESCO, has been implemented in Latin America (Argentina, Cuba and Brazil), West Africa (Burkina Faso and Senegal) and Eastern Europe (Bulgaria and Romania). The aim of the project is to analyse the environmental situation in medium-sized towns and its effect on social relations, particularly gender relations, with a view to providing useful information for implementation by decision makers and technicians.

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> "Gender equality and mainstreaming in the work of the United Nations system: a commitment to action"; for the text of the statement, see ACC/1998/3, annex III.

<sup>2</sup> A/CONF.177/20, chap. I, resolution I, annex II, paras. 239-242.





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**Twenty-third session**

**12-30 June 2000**

**Item 5 of the provisional agenda\***

**Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on  
the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination  
against Women**

**Report provided by specialized agencies of the  
United Nations on the Implementation of the  
Convention in areas falling within the scope of  
their activities**

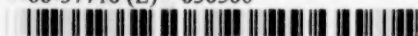
**Note by the Secretary-General**

**Addendum**

**International Labour Organization**

1. On behalf of the Committee, on 18 November 1999, the Secretariat invited the International Labour Organization (ILO) to submit to the Committee, by 20 December 1999, a report on information provided by States to ILO on the implementation of article 14 and related articles of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which would supplement the information contained in the reports of the States parties to the Convention that will be considered at the twenty-third session.
2. Other information sought by the Committee refers to activities, programmes and policy decisions undertaken by ILO to promote the implementation of article 14 and related articles of the Convention.
3. The report annexed hereto has been submitted in compliance with the Committee's request.

\* CEDAW/C/2000/II/1.



## Annex

### Report of the International Labour Organization under article 22 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, submitted to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its twenty-third session (June 2000)

## Contents

|                                                                             | <i>Page</i> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Part I. Introduction .....                                                  | 3           |
| Part II. Indications concerning the situation of individual countries ..... | 5           |
| Austria .....                                                               | 5           |
| Cuba .....                                                                  | 6           |
| Iraq .....                                                                  | 7           |
| Romania .....                                                               | 8           |
| Part III. Additional information*                                           |             |
| Statistical tables                                                          |             |
| Relevant documents of the ILO Governing Body                                |             |
| Annexes to Part II of the Report                                            |             |

\* Part III does not appear in the present document.

## **Part I: Introduction**

The provisions of article 11 of the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women are dealt with in a number of ILO Conventions. Of the 182 Conventions adopted so far, the information in the attached report relates principally to the following:

- Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No.100), which has been ratified by 143 member States;
- Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No.111), which has been ratified by 140 member States;
- Workers with Family Responsibilities Convention, 1981 (No.156), which has been ratified by 29 member States.

Where applicable reference is made to a number of other Conventions which are relevant to the employment of women:

### *Forced Labour*

- Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)
- Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105)

### *Child Labour*

- Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138)
- Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)

### *Freedom of Association*

- Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention, 1948 (No. 87)
- Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98)

### *Employment policy*

- Employment Policy Convention, 1964 (No. 122)
- Human Resources Development Convention, 1975 (No.142)

### *Maternity protection*

- Maternity Protection Convention, 1919 (No.3)
- Maternity Protection Convention (Revised), 1952 (No.103)

### *Night Work*

- Night Work (Women) Convention (Revised), 1948, (No.89) [and Protocol]
- Night Work Convention, 1990 (No.170)

*Underground Work:*

- Underground Work Convention, 1935 (No. 45)

*Part-time work:*

- Part-Time Work Convention, 1994 (No. 175)

*Home work:*

- Home Work Convention, 1996 (No. 177)

The application of ratified Conventions is supervised in the ILO by the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR), a body of independent experts from around the world, which meets annually. The information submitted in Part II of the present report consists of observations and direct requests made by the Committee. Observations are comments published in the CEACR's annual report - produced in English, French and Spanish - which is submitted to the International Labour Conference. Direct requests (produced in English and in French - and in the case of Spanish-speaking countries, also in Spanish) are not published in book form, but are made public. At a later date, they are published on the ILO's data base of supervisory activities, ILOLEX (available on-line or on CD-ROM).

In addition, Part III of the report includes additional information on the countries concerned including statistical tables, information on technical cooperation activities, and annexes (extracts of relevant comments of the CEACR) to Part II of the report.

## Part II: Indications concerning the situation of individual countries

### Austria

#### Position in regard to ILO Conventions relating to women

I. Among the relevant ILO Conventions, Austria has ratified Conventions Nos. 100 and 111. It has also ratified Conventions Nos. 29, 87, 89, 98, 103, 105, 122, 142.

II. **Comments by the ILO supervisory bodies.** The pending comments of the ILO Committee of Experts on matters relevant to the provisions of CEDAW relate to:

**Convention No. 100:** In an observation of 1996, the Committee noted with interest that in a resolution of 14 September 1994, the Supreme Court examined for the first time the question of indirect discrimination against women and the resulting legal consequences. The Supreme Court established that a wage category provision of a collective agreement, stating that "physical capability" is the determining criterion for classification in a higher category, was excessively to the advantage of men. As there was no classification criterion based on capacities more typical of women workers (such as manual dexterity), the Court concluded that this lack of balance in the assessment criteria constituted indirect discrimination against physically less capable women and was thus an infringement of section 2(2) of the Equality of Treatment Act, 1979, as amended. The relevant wage category provision of the agreement was consequently ruled to be partially invalid. In a direct request of the same year, the Committee noted that, in terms of average income, men earned approximately 42 per cent more than women and that, according to the Government's report, about one-third of that difference was ascribed to the higher proportion of women in part-time work. In the light of the above-mentioned decision of the Supreme Court, the Committee asked the Government whether any measures had been taken by, for example, the Equality of Treatment Committee or the social partners, to examine whether classification criteria took adequate account of factors more likely to be present in the work performed by women.

**Convention No. 103:** In an observation of 1998, the Committee noted with interest the adoption of the amendment to the Agricultural Labour Act which suspended the termination of temporary employment contracts for pregnant women, unless the temporary nature of the contract was objectively justified or provided for by law, thereby giving better effect to the provisions of the Convention for this category of women workers. Further, the Committee noted that sections 10 and 12 of the Federal Maternity Protection Act and section 75 of the Federal Agricultural Labour Act, under certain circumstances, authorized the dismissal of women who are pregnant and following confinement, subject to the consent of the judicial authorities. Noting that the Government did not provide any information on new elements which modified the situation, the Committee recalled once again that these legal provisions, even though they covered a period of protection that was longer than the periods covered by the Convention and offered certain guarantees against the abusive dismissal of women workers during pregnancy and following confinement, were not in themselves sufficient to give full effect to this provision of the Convention. The Committee hoped that the Government would be able to take the necessary measures to bring its legislation into full conformity with the provisions of the Convention. It also requested the Government to state whether women who were dismissed under these provisions

of the Maternity Protection Act and the Agricultural Labour Act nevertheless received the maternity benefit guaranteed by the Convention.

**Convention No. 111:** In a direct request of 1997, the Committee noted the detailed information provided by the Government in relation to the progress in women's access to the public service and improved terms and conditions of work. While noting an increased number of women in higher public service posts, the Committee also observed that as regards higher teaching staff, at the level of two types of university professors, 3.4 per cent to 6.2 per cent were women whereas 96.6 per cent to 93.8 per cent were men. With regard to the application of the Equality of Treatment Act in the agriculture and forestry sectors, the Committee noted with interest that, apart from Burgenland, all the Länder had adopted in their own laws provisions as rigorous as the federal Equality of Treatment Act regarding discrimination on the basis of sex. Further, the Committee noted that one of the amendments to the Act on Collective Labour Relations aimed at, *inter alia*, ensuring the adequate representation of women workers when nominations are made for the Austrian members of the Special Bargaining Committee. It noted with interest the draft amendments to the Equality of Treatment Act, in particular, those concerning regionalisation of the system of legal aid offices for equal treatment; reimbursement of certain expenses for persons who appear before the Commission for Equal Treatment; the inclusion of provisions according to which sexual harassment would be committed by third parties (colleagues or clients) even if the employer had not failed in its obligations; and provisions lifting time-limits for lodging complaints of violation of equal treatment. In its report, the Government also stated that the social partners and the Government had agreed to begin discussions on a "major" revision of the Act. This revision would amend the provisions relating to the burden of proof and the amount of fines for violation of the Act. However, this revision would not start until the European Union adopts a firm position on the question. The Committee asked the Government to inform it in its next report of any developments concerning this point. Regarding the measures to eliminate occupational segregation on the basis of sex, the Committee noted the numerous activities of the Labour Market Service in favour of promoting equal opportunity and treatment for women (see attached direct request on this Convention), and encouraged the Government to continue to supply such information as well as on the results obtained with this respect.

## Cuba

### Position in regard to ILO Conventions relating to women

II. Among the relevant ILO Conventions, Cuba has ratified Conventions Nos. 100 and 111. It has also ratified Conventions Nos. 3, 29, 45, 87, 89, 98, 103, 105, 122, 138 and 142.

III. **Comments by the ILO supervisory bodies:** The pending comments of the ILO Committee of Experts on matters relevant to the provisions of CEDAW relate to:

**Convention No. 103:** In a 1997 observation the Committee noted the Government's explanations concerning changes in the legislation on maternity protection for women workers, in that granting interruptions of work for the purpose of nursing did not attain its objective. Noting the large number of women who return to work immediately after the three months' post-

natal leave, the Government decided to grant women wishing to take care of their children and not return to work an allowance amounting to 60 per cent of their average wage until their children are six months old (Resolution No. 10/91). The Committee drew the Government's attention once again to the situation of women who, for personal reasons, wished to resume their jobs on expiry of post-natal leave. It recalled that these women should be entitled to interrupt their work for the purpose of nursing their children and that these interruptions were to be counted as working hours and remunerated accordingly.

There are currently no pending comments on Conventions No. 100 and No. 111 relevant to the employment of women.

## Iraq

### Position in regard to ILO Conventions relating to women

I. Among the relevant ILO Conventions, Iraq has ratified Conventions Nos. 100 and 111. It has also ratified Conventions Nos. 29, 89, 98, 100, 105, 122, 138, and 142.

II. **Comments by the ILO supervisory bodies.** The pending comments of the ILO Committee of Experts on matters relevant to the provisions of CEDAW relate to:

**Convention No. 100:** In a 1998 direct request, the Committee noted with regret that the Government's report had not been received and it was therefore bound to repeat its previous comments on the application of this Convention. The Committee recalled that section 4, II of the Labour Code of 1987 provided for equal remuneration only for "*work of the same nature and the same volume carried out in identical conditions*". It noted that the Government had indicated previously that equality of remuneration for men and women workers who performed work of equal value, even if it was of a different nature, was applied through the *work rules* in the establishments that were covered by the Labour Code and applied throughout the private, cooperative and mixed sectors. The Government added that the Labour Inspectorate was responsible for ensuring that the law was applied and had reported no infringements in this respect. The Committee drew the Government's attention to the fact that section 4 of the Labour Code did not give full effect to the Convention and asked the Government to indicate the measures it planned to take to amend section 4 so as to bring labour legislation into conformity with the Convention. With regard to supplementary bonuses and indemnities that were determined as a function of the results of the enterprise and that were assigned through agreements negotiated between organizations of employers and workers, the Committee noted the Government's statement that the bonuses and indemnities were granted without discrimination, as in the public service. With regard to the public service, the Committee noted that, according to the Government, remuneration was equal for men and women with the same skills, who were employed at the same grade and work in the same areas and conditions. It requested detailed information with regard to the implementation of the above statements in order to ascertain that the principle of the Convention is observed in practice.

**Convention No. 111:** In a direct request of 1997 the Committee recalled that Resolution No. 480 of 1989 concerning the employment of qualified women in the state administration and the socialist and mixed sectors, which prohibited certain occupations for women, was suspended by

Decision NO. 76 of 2 May 1993. Pursuant to this text, another resolution would decide whether Resolution No. 480 would be repealed or reinstated. The Committee requested the Government to inform it of the present status of this resolution which prohibited access by women to certain occupations. With regard to the statistics requested on distribution of men and women in employment, the Committee noted the tables transmitted by the Government on the vocational training courses held in 1994 by the General Federation of Iraqi Women and the people's training centres. It requested the Government to provide tables showing the proportion of men to women on these courses as well as statistics on the number of women occupying posts of responsibility in the public sector, in proportion to men, and their classifications. It also requested the Government to indicate whether programmes designed to promote employment of women had been implemented or were envisaged, and whether concrete results had been obtained in this direction.

## Romania

### Position in regard to ILO Conventions relating to women

I. Among the relevant ILO Conventions, Iraq has ratified Conventions Nos. 100 and 111. It has also ratified Conventions Nos. 3, 29, 87, 89, 98, 105, 122 and 138.

II. **Comments by the ILO supervisory bodies.** The pending comments of the ILO Committee of Experts on matters relevant to the provisions of CEDAW relate to:

**Convention No. 100:** In a direct request of 1998, the Committee continued its dialogue with the Government concerning article 38, paragraph 4 of the Constitution and section 151 (1) of the Labour Code which established only the principle of equal remuneration for equal work, rather than principle of equal remuneration for *work of equal value*. The Committee drew the Government's attention to the importance of including in the national legislation a definition of the principle of equality which is in conformity with Convention No. 100. The Committee noted with interest that the Department of the Ministry of Labour and Social Promotion responsible for promoting the rights of women had drawn up a draft text on equality of opportunities for men and women, which had been presented to Parliament for adoption. It hoped that this draft text would contain a definition of the principle of equality which would be in full compliance with the Convention. As regards the objective evaluation of jobs, the Committee indicated that the adoption of the concept of equal pay for work of equal value, logically implied a comparison of the tasks involved and it noted that the Government had previously expressed a wish to receive technical assistance from the Office with regard to such evaluation of jobs. The Committee further noted that the percentage of women in high salary groups was very low, whereas it was generally higher in the low and middle salary groups. The percentage of women in managerial or executive positions in public administration and economic and social institutions was also relatively low compared to the percentage of men in these institutions. The Committee requested the Government to provide further details in this regard, including on specific measures adopted

to promote the access of women to jobs at different levels, in particular better paid jobs where they were still under-represented. The Committee noted that the social partners had stated their intention to negotiate a new collective agreement to be implemented at the end of 1998, and it hoped that this new agreement would contain provisions to ensure the observance of equal remuneration for men and women. The Committee also noted that the minimum wage levels fixed in 1998 by collective labour agreements at the level of certain economic branches which employ a predominantly female workforce were greater than the statutory minimum wage. It requested information on the wage levels fixed by collective agreements in the various sectors of activity, including those where women were under-represented.

**Convention No. 111:** In a direct request of 1997, the Committee noted that several activities had been undertaken — some with the technical cooperation of the Office — such as the creation of a Pilot Office providing information and advice for women and the signature of a cooperation agreement with the principal trade union confederations with a view to respecting equality of opportunity for women within the National Plan on Redistribution of Manpower; future activities included the drafting of a Bill on equality of opportunity and the creation of a National Agency on Equality of Opportunity. As regards the enforcement of equality provisions, the Committee noted that Parliament had recently adopted an Act to create the Advocate of the People (Ombudsman) and appointed a former Supreme Court judge to that office. It also noted that a working group within the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection was drawing up a draft Bill on labour inspection (which was adopted in 1999) aiming at the creation of an independent and efficient inspection body.

A National Tripartite Seminar on Women in the Labour Market was held in September 1999, involving representatives of various Government agencies and the social partners, the academe and non-governmental organizations, which formulated a set of recommendations with regard to the promotion of equal opportunities of men and women in employment and occupation.



# Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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## Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

### Twenty-third session

12-30 June 2000

Item 6 of the provisional agenda\*

## Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee

### Report by the Secretariat

## Contents

|                                                                                                                                                                       | Paragraphs | Page |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------|
| I. Introduction .....                                                                                                                                                 | 1-3        | 2    |
| II. Proposed approaches where States parties have not submitted at least two reports required under article 18 of the Convention .....                                | 4-15       | 2    |
| III. Long-term programme of work regarding general recommendations .....                                                                                              | 16-20      | 6    |
| IV. Developments in the human rights regime .....                                                                                                                     | 21-22      | 7    |
| V. Reports to be considered at future sessions of the Committee .....                                                                                                 | 23-24      | 7    |
| VI. Efforts to encourage universal ratification, ratification of the Optional Protocol and acceptance of the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1 .....               | 25-27      | 7    |
| <b>Annexes</b>                                                                                                                                                        |            |      |
| I. States parties whose reports are more than five years overdue as of 4 May 2000 .....                                                                               |            | 10   |
| II. States parties whose reports have been submitted but have not yet been considered by the Committee .....                                                          |            | 13   |
| III. States parties that have deposited with the Secretary-General instruments of the acceptance of the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention ..... |            | 15   |
| IV. States parties that have signed the Optional Protocol .....                                                                                                       |            | 16   |
| V. States that have not ratified or acceded to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women .....                                                 |            | 17   |

\* CEDAW/C/2000/I/1.



## I. Introduction

1. The present report addresses a number of issues relevant to the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, including:

- (a) Proposed approaches in cases where States parties have not submitted at least two reports required under article 18 of the Convention;
- (b) The Committee's long-term programme of work with regard to general recommendations.

The report also contains relevant developments in other parts of the United Nations human rights regime.

2. A list of States parties whose reports are more than five years overdue is contained in annex I to the present report. The report also contains a list of States parties whose reports have been submitted but have not yet been considered by the Committee (annex II), as well as the date of the receipt of such reports.

3. Information on efforts by the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women with regard to universal ratification, timely reporting, acceptance of the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention and ratification and accession to its Optional Protocol is included in the report. A list of those States parties that have accepted the amendment is contained in annex III, while those States parties that have signed the Optional Protocol to the Convention is contained in annex IV. A list of those States that have not ratified or acceded to the Convention is contained in annex V.

## II. Proposed approaches where States parties have not submitted at least two reports required under article 18 of the Convention

4. Article 18, paragraph 1, of the Convention provides that States parties undertake to submit reports on implementation of the Convention within one year after its entry into force for the State concerned, and thereafter at least every four years and further whenever the Committee so requests. Since the Convention entered into force in 1982, the Committee's practice has been to observe the four-yearly periodicity foreseen in article 18, irrespective of whether the State party concerned has fallen behind in its reporting obligations, or if the consideration of a State party's report by the Committee has been delayed. In this context, the Committee has interpreted submission of reports "whenever the Committee so requests" to refer to exceptional reports, with regard to which it adopted standards and guidelines in its decision 21/I of its twenty-first session in 1999.

5. Currently, 39 States parties have not submitted two reports required under article 18 of the Convention, 9 States parties have not submitted three reports, 10 States parties have not submitted four reports, and 7 States parties have not submitted five reports. Of these, 36 States parties have not submitted their initial reports.

6. At its twentieth session in January 1999, the Committee reiterated its decision 16/III of its sixteenth session, in which it had decided, on an exceptional basis, and

as a temporary measure, in order to address the backlog of reports awaiting consideration and encourage States parties to report in a timely fashion, to invite States parties to combine a maximum of two reports. This decision governs situations where reports are combined in a single document, and the Committee has considered reports of States parties that have submitted two reports combined in a single document, as well as another report, on three occasions<sup>1</sup> since the adoption of that decision. Moreover, on one occasion since the adoption of decision 16/III,<sup>2</sup> the Committee has considered a report from one State party that had presented three reports combined in a single document.

7. The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Convention on the Rights of the Child contain provisions governing the periodicity of reporting in similar terms to article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Article 9, paragraph 1, of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination requires submission of a report within one year after entry into force of the Convention for the State party concerned, and thereafter every two years and whenever the Committee so requests, while article 19, paragraph 1, of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment requires a report within one year after entry into force of the Convention for the State party concerned and that thereafter States parties shall submit supplementary reports every four years on any new measures taken and such other reports as the Committee may request. Article 44, paragraph 1, of the Convention on the Rights of the Child requires States parties to report within two years after entry into force for the State party concerned, and thereafter every five years. Neither the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, nor the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights established the periodicity for reports required under those treaties.

8. A significant number of States parties to these treaties have fallen behind in their reporting obligations and several of the treaty bodies have developed strategies in this regard. At its thirty-eighth session in 1990, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination decided that the periodicity outlined in the Convention would be satisfied if States parties would submit a comprehensive report every four years and a brief updating report in the two-year interim. The determination of whether a report is comprehensive, so as to warrant the interim brief updating report, is at the discretion of the Committee and this decision is reflected in its concluding observations on the State party's report, which request the State party to cover all the points raised in the concluding observations.<sup>3</sup> That Committee has also adopted the practice of allowing States parties to fulfil their past reporting obligations by combining all outstanding reports in one document.<sup>4</sup> The Committee against Torture does not allow for the consolidation of reports, but does allow departure from the Convention's periodicity on an ad hoc basis. The Committee on the Rights of the Child, which has a large backlog of initial reports awaiting review, as well as growing number of unsubmitted reports, has invited one State party to submit a consolidated second and third periodic report.<sup>5</sup>

9. Article 17, paragraph 1, of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights makes provision for States parties to submit their reports in stages, in accordance with a programme to be established by the Economic and Social Council within one year of the entry into force of the Covenant and after

consultation with the States parties and the specialized agencies concerned. Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/4, which is reflected in rule 58 (2) of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, provides that States should submit an initial report within two years of the Covenant's entry into force for the State party concerned, and thereafter every five years. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights does not allow for consolidation of overdue reports, but agrees to rescheduling of the reporting dates when this is requested by States parties. Both to encourage regular reporting and expedite its work, that Committee is also making efforts to encourage the submission of focused reports concentrating on matters raised in the concluding observations on the preceding report of the State party.

10. Article 40, paragraph 1, of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights provides that reports are due within one year of the entry into force of the Covenant for the State party concerned, and thereafter whenever the Committee so requests. States parties that submitted initial reports before July 1981, are required to submit reports five years after the consideration of their initial reports and every five years thereafter, while other States parties are required to submit periodic reports to the Committee every five years from the date when the initial report was due.<sup>6</sup> At its sixty-third session, in 1998, the Human Rights Committee decided that "the date of submission of the following periodic report should generally be up to five year after the consideration of the previous report". The criteria to be used in this determination are: (a) delays in submission of reports; (b) delays in consideration of these reports if attributable to the State; (c) quality of the reports and of the dialogue, and (d) nature of the concerns and recommendations expressed in the concluding observations.<sup>7</sup> The Human Rights Committee determines the date that the next report should be submitted after consideration of the report before it and reflects this in the concluding observations adopted with respect to the State party. In cases of States parties that regularly submit reports, a period of five years is usually nominated; where States parties reports are long overdue, the Committee will usually require the submission of a report within three years after the consideration of the current report.

11. In light of the practice of these bodies, and taking into account the views of the ninth meeting of chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies, which encouraged treaty bodies to develop a flexible approach, although avoiding those that might provide an incentive to States parties to delay the submission of their reports, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women may wish to reconsider its decision 16/III and encourage States parties with outstanding reports to submit a single document consolidating all outstanding reporting obligations. In cases where the State party's outstanding reporting obligations include the initial report, the Committee may wish to decide that, where the consolidated document fully and comprehensively meets the requirements of the Committee's reporting guidelines and in addition provides an assessment of the implementation of the Convention from the date at which the State party's initial report fell due, the consolidated report satisfies the State party's reporting obligations to that date. In such cases, however, the Committee may wish to ensure that the dialogue between it and the State party is sustained by requiring a report in less than four years as it is entitled to do within article 18, paragraph 1. Thereafter the Committee may decide that the State party should revert to its regular four-year reporting cycle indicated in the Convention.

12. In addition, in order to ensure that States parties that have submitted reports do not fall behind with their reporting obligations, the Committee may wish to consider adopting the practice of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and require States parties to submit a comprehensive report at eight-yearly intervals and a brief updating report in the four-year interim. As in the practice of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the elements to be addressed in the updating report could be identified in the concluding comments of the Committee on the earlier report of the State party. In this context, also, the Committee may wish to consider whether a full and comprehensive response to the list of issues and questions posed by the pre-session working group of the Committee to States parties presenting periodic reports could fulfil subsequent reporting obligations in cases where the subsequent report of a State party considered by the pre-session working group is due or due shortly after the meeting of the pre-session working group.

13. The Committee may also wish to consider the practice advocated by the chairpersons of human rights treaty bodies and adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of considering implementation of their respective treaties in States parties that consistently fail to fulfil their reporting obligations, in the absence of a report.

14. Where initial reports are overdue by five years or more, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination notifies States parties that: (a) it shall review implementation of the Convention in the State party concerned at a future session and invite one or more representatives of the State party to participate in its consideration; and (b) in view of the absence of an initial report, the Committee shall consider as an initial report all information submitted by the State party to other organs of the United Nations or, in the absence of such material, reports and other information prepared by organs of the United Nations.<sup>8</sup> Where overdue periodic reports are concerned, in addition to encouraging consolidation of outstanding reporting obligations, the Committee, after informing the States parties concerned in advance, reviews implementation of the Convention in States parties whose reports are overdue for five years or more on the basis of previous reports submitted by those States.<sup>9</sup>

15. Since 1990, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has similarly adopted the practice of considering the implementation of the Covenant in respect of States parties whose initial or periodic reports are significantly overdue. In this context, a four-step procedure has been adopted: (a) the identification of those States parties whose initial or periodic reports are long overdue; (b) notification to those States parties that the Committee intends to consider at a subsequent session; (c) consideration of the status of economic, social and cultural rights in those States parties on the basis of all available information; and (d) adoption of concluding observations.<sup>10</sup> It should be noted that many States parties that are notified by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination or the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights that implementation of the relevant treaty will be considered in the absence of a report submit a report before the scheduled review or request postponement on the grounds that a report will be submitted imminently.

### III. Long-term programme of work regarding general recommendations

16. At earlier sessions, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women had adopted a long-term programme of work regarding its elaboration of general recommendations. Thus, at its eleventh session, in 1992, members of the Committee volunteered to prepare draft general recommendations on specific articles of the Convention for the consideration of the Committee at its twelfth session,<sup>11</sup> while at that session additional members volunteered to prepare general comments and recommendations on articles 2 to 8, 11 and 12.<sup>11</sup>

17. Also at its eleventh session, in accordance with its long-term programme of work, the Committee concluded general recommendation 19, concerning violence against women. General recommendation 21, concerning equality in marriage and family relations, was concluded at the Committee's thirteenth session (1994);<sup>12</sup> general recommendation 23, on women and public life, was adopted at the sixteenth session, and included in the Committee's report on its seventeenth session;<sup>13</sup> and general recommendation 24, on article 12 of the Convention, women and health, was adopted by the Committee at its twentieth session (1999).<sup>14</sup>

18. Also at its twentieth session, the Committee decided that articles 2 and 4 would be taken up in its long-term programme of work on general recommendations.<sup>15</sup> At its seventeenth session, the Committee had agreed that general recommendations on articles 2 and 4 would be formulated separately<sup>16</sup> and at its twentieth session it decided that work on a general recommendation on article 4 would begin at its twenty-second session in January 2000.<sup>15</sup>

19. Several entities within the United Nations system have invited the Committee, when considering its long-term programme of work for general recommendations, to take certain issues into account. The Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, in its resolution 1998/19, adopted at its fiftieth session, on the report of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, invited the Committee to elaborate general recommendations with regard to trafficking in persons and related practices of sexual exploitation, and in its resolutions 1998/15, on women and the right to land, property and adequate housing, and 1999/15, the right to development, adopted at its fiftieth and fifty-first sessions, invited the Committee to explore the possibility of adopting a general recommendation on the theme of women's economic rights as it related, *inter alia*, to the provisions of article 14 of the Convention. The Commission on the Status of Women, in its resolution 42/3, adopted at its fiftieth session, invited the Committee to develop a general recommendation on women and migration, while both the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1998/17, and the General Assembly in its resolution 54/138, have encouraged the Committee to consider developing a general recommendation on the situation of women migrant workers.

20. The Committee may wish to confirm its long-term programme for the preparation of general recommendations. Bearing in mind its three-stage process for the preparation of general recommendations adopted at its seventeenth session,<sup>17</sup> the Committee may also wish to schedule a general discussion and exchange of views on the subject of its next general recommendation, with the participation of specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies, as well as non-governmental organizations, at its twenty-fourth session in January 2001.

#### **IV. Developments in the human rights regime**

21. At its sixty-eighth session, in March 2000, the Human Rights Committee adopted general comment No. 28 on equality of rights between men and women.<sup>18</sup> The general comment, which updates and replaces general comment No. 4, adopted at its thirteenth session in 1981, seeks to take account of the important impact of this article on the enjoyment by women of the human rights protected under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

22. At its fifty-sixth session in March 2000, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination adopted a general recommendation on gender-related dimensions of race discrimination.<sup>19</sup> The general comments of the Human Rights Committee and the general recommendation of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination have been made available to members of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

#### **V. Reports to be considered at future sessions of the Committee**

23. At its twenty-second session, the Committee drew up the list of States parties whose reports would be considered at future sessions. The Committee decided that, at its twenty-fourth session in January 2001, the initial reports of Singapore and Uzbekistan; the second periodic report of the Netherlands; the combined second and third periodic report of Jamaica; the third periodic report of Egypt; the combined third and fourth periodic report of Mongolia and the fourth periodic report of Sweden would be considered. The Netherlands, Singapore and Sweden indicated that they would be unable to report at the twenty-fourth session, while Finland agreed to present its third and fourth periodic reports. In finalizing the list of States parties to be considered at the twenty-fourth session, the Committee may wish to take account of the fact that the initial reports of Fiji and Maldives have been submitted.

24. The Committee decided that at its twenty-fifth session, the initial report of Kazakhstan, the second periodic reports of Guyana, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Viet Nam; the third and fourth periodic reports of Finland and the fourth periodic report of Nicaragua would be considered. In finalizing the list for the twenty-fifth session, and drawing up the lists for future sessions the Committee may wish to consider annex II to the present report, which contains a list of those States parties that have submitted reports which have not yet been considered, and provides information on those available in the languages of the United Nations.

#### **VI. Efforts to encourage universal ratification, ratification of the Optional Protocol and acceptance of the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1**

25. The Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Director of the Division have continued efforts to encourage universal ratification of the Convention, ratification of the optional protocol and acceptance of the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention relating to the Committee's meeting time.

26. During the sixth meeting of Commonwealth Ministers for Women's Affairs, held in April 2000 in New Delhi, these issues were addressed by the Special Adviser during her speech to the meeting, as well as in briefings. The Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women also addressed ratification during the 103rd meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union of Women Parliamentarians held in Amman, in April 2000.

27. During the forty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and the third meeting of the preparatory committee on the special session of the General Assembly, for the five-year review of the Fourth World Conference on Women in March 2000, the Special Adviser and the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women met with several delegations to discuss ratification and compliance with reporting obligations. Offers of technical support have also been made to countries contemplating ratification and with regard to reporting obligations.

#### Notes

<sup>1</sup> Eighteenth session: Dominican Republic, combined second and third periodic report and fourth periodic report; twenty-second session: Democratic Republic of the Congo, initial report and combined second and third periodic reports; Germany, combined second and third periodic report and fourth periodic report.

<sup>2</sup> Seventeenth session: Antigua and Barbuda, combined initial, second and third periodic report.

<sup>3</sup> See, for example, the concluding observations on Morocco: "The Committee recommends that the State party's next report, which was due on 17 January 1998, should be an updating report and that it should cover all the points raised in these concluding observations." *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 18* (A/53/18), para. 420.

<sup>4</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 18* (A/46/18), para. 28.

<sup>5</sup> CRC/C/191, footnote 2: "In response to a note verbale submitted by the Government of Australia on 17 August 1999 requesting guidance on the periodicity of submission of its second periodic report, the Committee, by letter sent on 22 September 1999, invited the Australian authorities to submit a consolidated second and third periodic report by 15 January 2003".

<sup>6</sup> CCPR/C/19/Rev.1

<sup>7</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 40* (A/53/40), vol. II, annex VIII, para. 7.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 18 (A/51/18), para. 608.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 603-607.

<sup>10</sup> *Manual on Human Rights Reporting*, 2nd edition, 1997 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E/CN.47/0.16), pp. 159-160.

<sup>11</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/47/38), paras. 456-458.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/49/38).

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/52/38/Rev.1), part two.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/54/38/Rev.1), part one.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 484.

<sup>16</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3B* (A/52/3B/Rev.10), part two, para. 482.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*, *Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3B* (A/52/3B/Rev.10), part two, para. 480.

<sup>18</sup> CCPR/C/23/Rev.1/Add.10.

<sup>19</sup> CERD/C/56/Misc.23/Rev.3.

## Annex I

## State parties whose reports are more than five years overdue as of 4 May 2000

| <i>State party</i>                        | <i>Date due</i>   |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>A. Initial reports</b>                 |                   |
| Angola                                    | 17 October 1987   |
| Bahamas                                   | 5 November 1994   |
| Benin                                     | 18 April 1998     |
| Bhutan                                    | 30 September 1982 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina                    | 1 October 1994    |
| Brazil                                    | 2 March 1985      |
| Burundi                                   | 7 February 1993   |
| Cambodia                                  | 14 November 1993  |
| Cape Verde                                | 3 September 1982  |
| Central African Republic                  | 23 July 1992      |
| Congo                                     | 25 August 1983    |
| Costa Rica                                | 4 May 1987        |
| Dominica                                  | 3 September 1982  |
| Estonia                                   | 20 November 1992  |
| Gambia                                    | 16 May 1994       |
| Grenada                                   | 29 September 1991 |
| Guinea                                    | 8 September 1983  |
| Guinea-Bissau                             | 22 September 1986 |
| Haiti                                     | 3 September 1982  |
| Lao People's Democratic Republic          | 13 September 1982 |
| Latvia                                    | 14 May 1993       |
| Liberia                                   | 16 August 1985    |
| Malta                                     | 7 April 1992      |
| Saint Kitts and Nevis                     | 25 May 1986       |
| Saint Lucia                               | 7 November 1983   |
| Samoa                                     | 29 October 1993   |
| Seychelles                                | 4 June 1993       |
| Sierra Leone                              | 10 December 1989  |
| Suriname                                  | 31 March 1994     |
| Tajikistan                                | 25 October 1994   |
| The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | 17 February 1995  |
| Togo                                      | 26 October 1984   |
| Trinidad and Tobago                       | 18 February 1991  |

| <i>State party</i>                | <i>Date due</i>   |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>B. Second periodic reports</b> |                   |
| Angola                            | 17 October 1991   |
| Bhutan                            | 30 September 1986 |
| Brazil                            | 2 March 1989      |
| Cape Verde                        | 3 September 1986  |
| Congo                             | 25 August 1987    |
| Costa Rica                        | 4 May 1991        |
| Dominica                          | 3 September 1986  |
| Gabon                             | 20 February 1988  |
| Guinea                            | 8 September 1987  |
| Guinea-Bissau                     | 22 September 1990 |
| Haiti                             | 3 September 1986  |
| Laos People's Democratic Republic | 13 September 1986 |
| Liberia                           | 16 August 1989    |
| Madagascar                        | 16 April 1994     |
| Malawi                            | 11 April 1992     |
| Mali                              | 10 October 1990   |
| Saint Kitts and Nevis             | 25 May 1990       |
| Saint Lucia                       | 7 November 1987   |
| Sierra Leone                      | 11 December 1993  |
| Togo                              | 26 October 1988   |
| Trinidad and Tobago               | 11 February 1995  |
| <b>C. Third periodic reports</b>  |                   |
| Bhutan                            | 30 September 1990 |
| Brazil                            | 2 March 1993      |
| Cape Verde                        | 3 September 1990  |
| Congo                             | 25 August 1991    |
| Costa Rica                        | 4 May 1995        |
| Cyprus                            | 22 August 1994    |
| Dominica                          | 3 September 1990  |
| El Salvador                       | 18 September 1990 |
| Gabon                             | 20 February 1992  |
| Ghana                             | 11 February 1995  |
| Guatemala                         | 11 September 1991 |
| Guinea                            | 8 September 1991  |
| Guinea-Bissau                     | 22 September 1994 |
| Guyana                            | 3 September 1990  |
| Haiti                             | 3 September 1990  |
| Laos People's Democratic Republic | 13 September 1990 |
| Liberia                           | 16 August 1993    |

| <i>State (party)</i>                   | <i>Date due</i>   |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Mali .....                             | 10 October 1994   |
| Mauritius .....                        | 8 August 1993     |
| Saint Kitts and Nevis .....            | 25 May 1994       |
| Saint Lucia .....                      | 7 November 1991   |
| Senegal .....                          | 7 March 1994      |
| Togo .....                             | 26 October 1992   |
| Tunisia .....                          | 20 October 1994   |
| Uganda .....                           | 21 August 1994    |
| Viet Nam .....                         | 19 March 1991     |
| <b>D. Fourth periodic reports</b>      |                   |
| Belarus .....                          | 3 September 1994  |
| Bhutan .....                           | 30 September 1994 |
| Bulgaria .....                         | 10 March 1993     |
| Dominica .....                         | 3 September 1994  |
| Ecuador .....                          | 9 December 1994   |
| El Salvador .....                      | 18 September 1994 |
| Ethiopia .....                         | 10 October 1994   |
| Guyana .....                           | 3 September 1994  |
| Haiti .....                            | 3 September 1994  |
| Hungary .....                          | 3 September 1994  |
| Lao People's Democratic Republic ..... | 13 September 1994 |
| Panama .....                           | 28 November 1994  |
| Poland .....                           | 3 September 1994  |
| Rwanda .....                           | 3 September 1994  |
| Saint Vincent and the Grenadines ..... | 3 September 1994  |
| Uruguay .....                          | 8 November 1994   |
| Viet Nam .....                         | 19 March 1995     |
| Yugoslavia .....                       | 28 March 1995     |

## Annex II

## States parties whose reports have been submitted but have not yet been considered by the Committee

| <i>State party</i>                | <i>Date due</i>   | <i>Date received</i> | <i>Document symbol</i>        |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>A. Initial reports</b>         |                   |                      |                               |
| Fiji                              | 27 September 1996 | 29 February 2000     | CEDAW/C/FJI/1                 |
| Kazakhstan                        | 25 September 1999 | 26 January 2000      | CEDAW/C/KAZ/1                 |
| Maldives                          | 1 July 1994       | 28 January 1999      | CEDAW/C/MDV/1                 |
| Singapore                         | 4 November 1996   | 30 November 1999     | CEDAW/C/SGP/1                 |
| Uzbekistan                        | 18 August 1996    | 19 January 2000      | CEDAW/C/UZB/1                 |
| <b>B. Second periodic reports</b> |                   |                      |                               |
| Armenia                           | 13 October 1998   | 23 August 1999       | CEDAW/C/ARM/2                 |
| Czech Republic                    | 24 March 1997     | 9 March 2000         | CEDAW/C/CZE/2                 |
| Equatorial Guinea                 | 22 November 1989  | 6 January 1994       | CEDAW/C/GNQ/2-3               |
| Guyana                            | 3 September 1986  | 20 September 1999    | CEDAW/C/GUY/2                 |
| Jamaica <sup>a</sup>              | 18 November 1989  | 17 February 1998     | CEDAW/C/JAM/2-4               |
| Libyan Arab Jamahiriya            | 15 June 1990      | 18 February 1999     | CEDAW/C/LBY/2                 |
| Morocco                           | 29 July 1998      | 28 February 2000     | CEDAW/C/MOR/2                 |
| Netherlands                       | 22 August 1996    | 10 December 1998     | CEDAW/C/NET/2/<br>Add.1 and 2 |
| Slovenia                          | 5 August 1999     | 26 April 1999        | CEDAW/C/SVN/2                 |
| Uruguay                           | 8 November 1986   | 3 February 1998      | CEDAW/C/URY/2-3               |
| Viet Nam                          | 19 March 1987     | 2 February 1999      | CEDAW/C/VNM/2                 |
| <b>C. Third periodic reports</b>  |                   |                      |                               |
| Belgium                           | 9 August 1994     | 29 October 1998      | CEDAW/C/BEL/3-4               |
| Egypt <sup>a</sup>                | 18 October 1990   | 30 January 1996      | CEDAW/C/EGY/3                 |
| Equatorial Guinea <sup>a</sup>    | 22 November 1993  | 6 January 1994       | CEDAW/C/GNQ/2-3               |
| Finland <sup>a</sup>              | 4 October 1995    | 28 January 1997      | CEDAW/C/FIN/3                 |
| France                            | 13 January 1993   | 5 October 1999       | CEDAW/C/FRA/3                 |
| Iceland                           | 3 July 1994       | 15 July 1998         | CEDAW/C/ICE/3-4               |
| Jamaica <sup>a</sup>              | 18 November 1993  | 17 February 1998     | CEDAW/C/JAM/2-4               |
| Kenya                             | 8 April 1993      | 5 January 2000       | CEDAW/C/KEN/3-4               |
| Mongolia <sup>a</sup>             | 3 September 1990  | 8 December 1998      | CEDAW/C/MNG/3-4               |
| Sri Lanka                         | 4 November 1990   | 7 October 1999       | CEDAW/C/LKA/3-4               |
| Uruguay                           | 8 November 1990   | 3 February 1998      | CEDAW/C/URY/2-3               |
| Yugoslavia                        | 28 March 1991     | 14 October 1998      | CEDAW/C/YUG/3                 |
| Zambia                            | 21 July 1994      | 12 August 1999       | CEDAW/C/ZAM/3-4               |

| <i>State party</i>                | <i>Date due</i>   | <i>Date received</i> | <i>Document symbol</i> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| <b>D. Fourth periodic reports</b> |                   |                      |                        |
| Argentina                         | 14 August 1998    | 18 January 2000      | CEDAW/C/ARG/4          |
| Belgium                           | 9 August 1994     | 29 October 1998      | CEDAW/C/BEL/3-4        |
| Denmark <sup>a</sup>              | 21 May 1996       | 9 January 1997       | CEDAW/C/DEN/4          |
| Egypt <sup>a</sup>                | 18 October 1994   | 30 March 2000        | CEDAW/C/EGY/4-5        |
| Finland <sup>a</sup>              | 4 October 1999    | 25 October 1999      | CEDAW/C/FIN/4          |
| Iceland                           | 3 July 1998       | 15 July 1998         | CEDAW/C/ICE/3-4        |
| Jamaica <sup>a</sup>              | 18 November 1997  | 17 February 1998     | CEDAW/C/JAM/2-4        |
| Japan                             | 25 July 1998      | 24 July 1998         | CEDAW/C/JPN/4          |
| Mongolia <sup>a</sup>             | 3 September 1994  | 8 December 1998      | CEDAW/C/MNG/3-4        |
| Nicaragua                         | 26 November 1994  | 16 June 1998         | CEDAW/C/NIC/4          |
| Portugal                          | 3 September 1994  | 25 October 1999      | CEDAW/C/PRT/4          |
| Sri Lanka                         | 4 November 1994   | 7 October 1999       | CEDAW/C/LKA/3-4        |
| Sweden <sup>b</sup>               | 3 September 1994  | 21 May 1996          | CEDAW/C/SWE/4          |
| Ukraine                           | 3 September 1994  | 2 August 1999        | CEDAW/C/UKR/4-5        |
| Yemen                             | 29 June 1997      | 8 March 2000         | CEDAW/C/YEM/4          |
| Zambia                            | 21 July 1998      | 12 August 1999       | CEDAW/C/ZAM/3-4        |
| <b>E. Fifth periodic reports</b>  |                   |                      |                        |
| Egypt <sup>a</sup>                | 18 October 1994   | 30 March 2000        | CEDAW/C/EGY/4-5        |
| Nicaragua                         | 26 November 1998  | 2 September 1999     | CEDAW/C/NIC/5          |
| Norway                            | 3 September 1998  | 23 March 2000        | CEDAW/C/NOR/5          |
| Russian Federation <sup>a</sup>   | 3 September 1998  | 3 March 1999         | CEDAW/C/USR/5          |
| Ukraine                           | 30 September 1998 | 2 August 1999        | CEDAW/C/UKR/4-5        |

<sup>a</sup> Reports to be considered by the Committee at its twenty-fourth session, to be held in New York in January 2001.

<sup>b</sup> Reports that have been translated, reproduced and made available in all official languages.

## Annex III

**States parties that have deposited with the Secretary-General instruments of the acceptance of the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention**

| <i>States parties</i>                                | <i>Acceptance date</i>        |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Australia                                            | 4 June 1998                   |
| Brazil                                               | 5 March 1997                  |
| Canada                                               | 3 November 1997               |
| Chile                                                | 8 May 1998                    |
| Denmark                                              | 12 March 1996                 |
| Finland                                              | 18 March 1996                 |
| France                                               | 8 August 1997                 |
| Guatemala                                            | 3 June 1999                   |
| Italy                                                | 31 May 1996                   |
| Liechtenstein                                        | 15 April 1997                 |
| Madagascar                                           | 19 July 1996                  |
| Malta                                                | 5 March 1997                  |
| Mexico                                               | 16 September 1996             |
| Mongolia                                             | 19 December 1997              |
| Netherlands                                          | 10 December 1997 <sup>a</sup> |
| New Zealand                                          | 26 September 1996             |
| Norway                                               | 29 March 1996                 |
| Panama                                               | 5 November 1996               |
| Republic of Korea                                    | 12 August 1996                |
| Sweden                                               | 17 July 1996                  |
| Switzerland                                          | 2 December 1997               |
| Turkey                                               | 9 December 1999               |
| United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | 19 November 1997 <sup>b</sup> |

<sup>a</sup> For the Kingdom in Europe, the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba.

<sup>b</sup> For the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man, the British Virgin Islands, and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

## Annex IV

## States parties that have signed the Optional Protocol

| <i>States parties</i>  | <i>Date signed</i> |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Argentina           | 28 February 2000   |
| 2. Austria             | 10 December 1999   |
| 3. Belgium             | 10 December 1999   |
| 4. Bolivia             | 10 December 1999   |
| 5. Chile               | 10 December 1999   |
| 6. Colombia            | 10 December 1999   |
| 7. Costa Rica          | 10 December 1999   |
| 8. Cuba                | 17 March 2000      |
| 9. Czech Republic      | 10 December 1999   |
| 10. Denmark            | 10 December 1999   |
| 11. Dominican Republic | 14 March 2000      |
| 12. Ecuador            | 10 December 1999   |
| 13. Finland            | 10 December 1999   |
| 14. France             | 10 December 1999   |
| 15. Germany            | 10 December 1999   |
| 16. Ghana              | 24 February 2000   |
| 17. Greece             | 10 December 1999   |
| 18. Iceland            | 10 December 1999   |
| 19. Indonesia          | 28 February 2000   |
| 20. Italy              | 10 December 1999   |
| 21. Liechtenstein      | 10 December 1999   |
| 22. Luxembourg         | 10 December 1999   |
| 23. Mexico             | 10 December 1999   |
| 24. Macedonia          | 3 April 2000       |
| 25. Netherlands        | 10 December 1999   |
| 26. Norway             | 10 December 1999   |
| 27. Paraguay           | 28 December 1999   |
| 28. Philippines        | 21 March 2000      |
| 29. Portugal           | 16 February 2000   |
| 30. Senegal            | 10 December 1999   |
| 31. Slovenia           | 10 December 1999   |
| 32. Spain              | 14 March 2000      |
| 33. Sweden             | 10 December 1999   |
| 34. Venezuela          | 17 March 2000      |

## Annex V

### States that have not ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

#### Africa

M Mauritania  
 S Sao Tome and Principe  
 S Somalia  
 S Sudan  
 S Swaziland

#### Asia and the Pacific

A Afghanistan  
 B Brunei Darussalam  
 D Democratic People's  
 R Republic of Korea  
 I Iran (Islamic Republic of)  
 K Kiribati  
 M Marshall Islands  
 M Micronesia (Federated States of)  
 N Nauru  
 P Palau  
 T Tonga

#### Western Asia

B Bahrain  
 O Oman  
 Q Qatar  
 S Saudi Arabia  
 U United Arab Emirates

#### Western Europe and Other

M Monaco  
 S San Marino  
 U United States of America  
 H Holy See